TOM SAWYER

SHIN TAKAHASHI

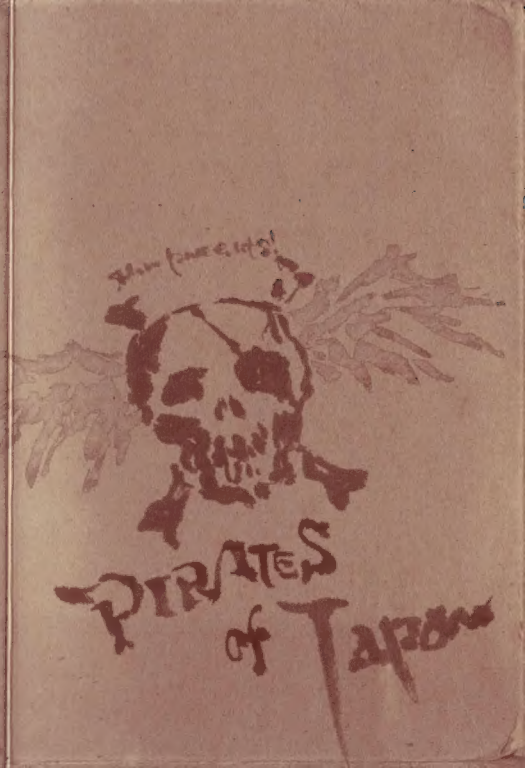
SHIN PRESENTS!

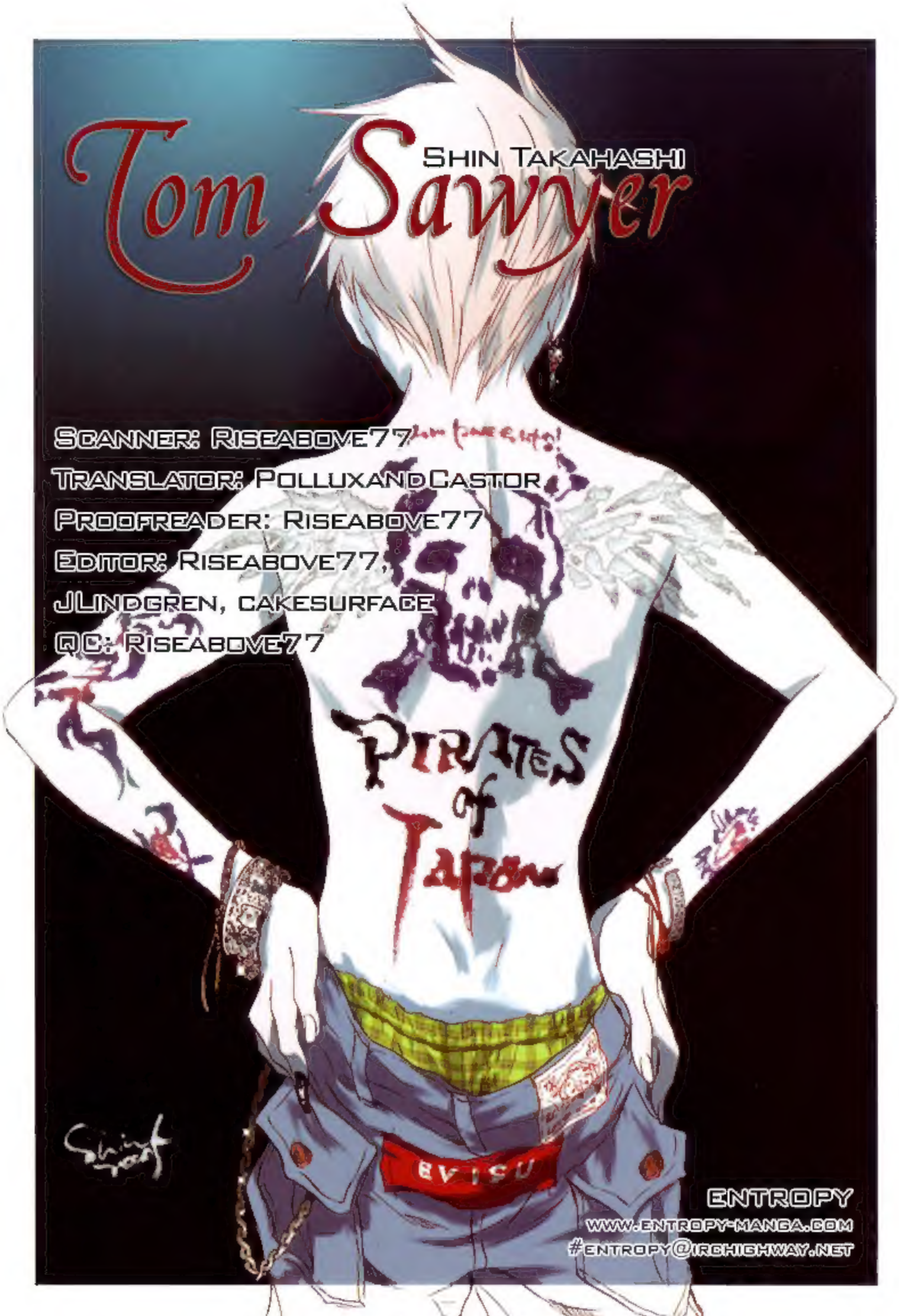
JETS COMICS

TOM SAWYER SHIN TAKAHASHI

4281

Hakusensha

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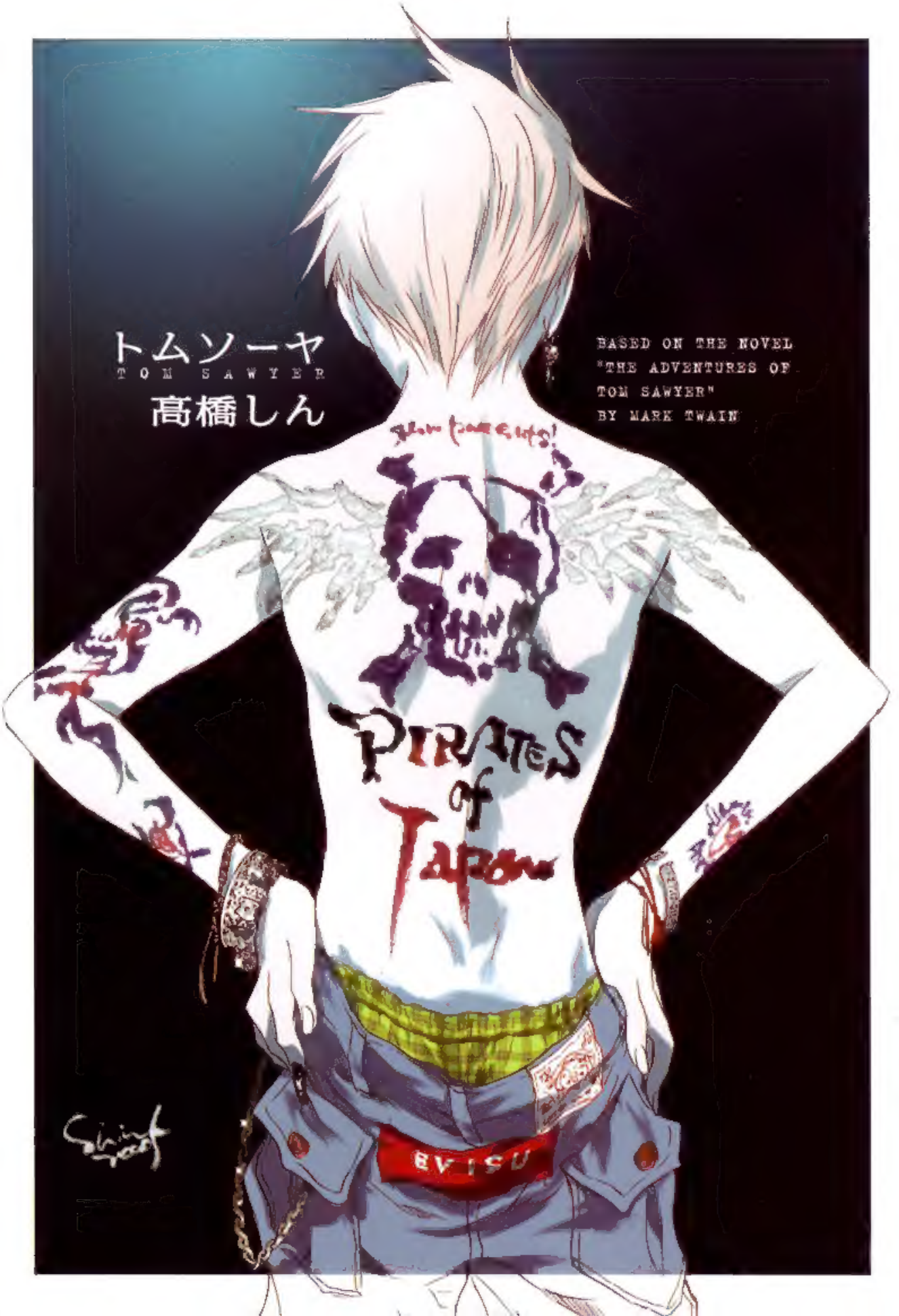
トムソーヤ
TOM SAWYER
高橋しん
BASED ON THE NOVEL
"THE ADVENTURES OF
TOM SAWYER"
BY MARK TWAIN
PIRATES
of
JAPAN
BVISU

Tom Sawyer

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My "season of youth"
began that summer.

SHIN Presents! + Mark twain

...out of a children's novel.

That summer's day was straight ...

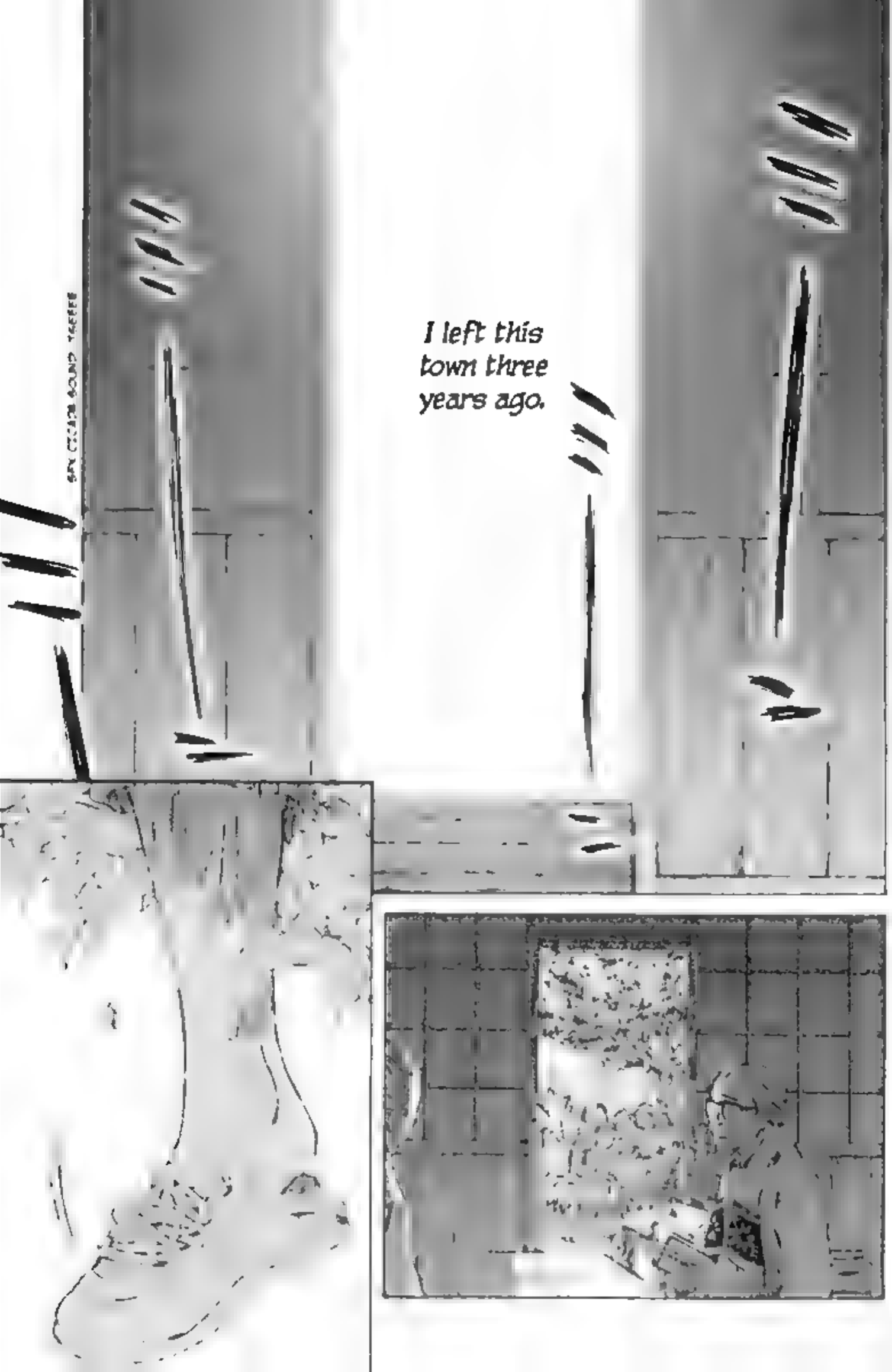
presents...

★SHIN PRESENTS★
TOM
★SAWYER★
トムソーヤ
第一章
BASED ON THE NOVEL "THE ADVENTURES OF TOM SAWYER" BY MARK

THE FLOWERS!
OH, NO!
WAIT!
HEY, YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE THE SCARY WOMAN ANGRY!
THEY'RE FLOATING AWAY.

SFX: PUSH
SFX: SPLASH
SFX: ROAR

JUST SOME BRATS...


I left this town three years ago.

I'M BEAT!
SFX: BOP
THERE ARE HILLS ALL OVER THIS DAMN C'TY!
WHY ARE ALL THE GRAVEYARDS IN THIS C'TY ON TOP OF HILLS?
SFX: SLUG SLUG SLUG
WHY IS THIS HOUSE LOCATED SO FAR FROM TOWN?
NO
SFX: CREAK
SFX: CREEEE

SFX: BADUMP BADUMP

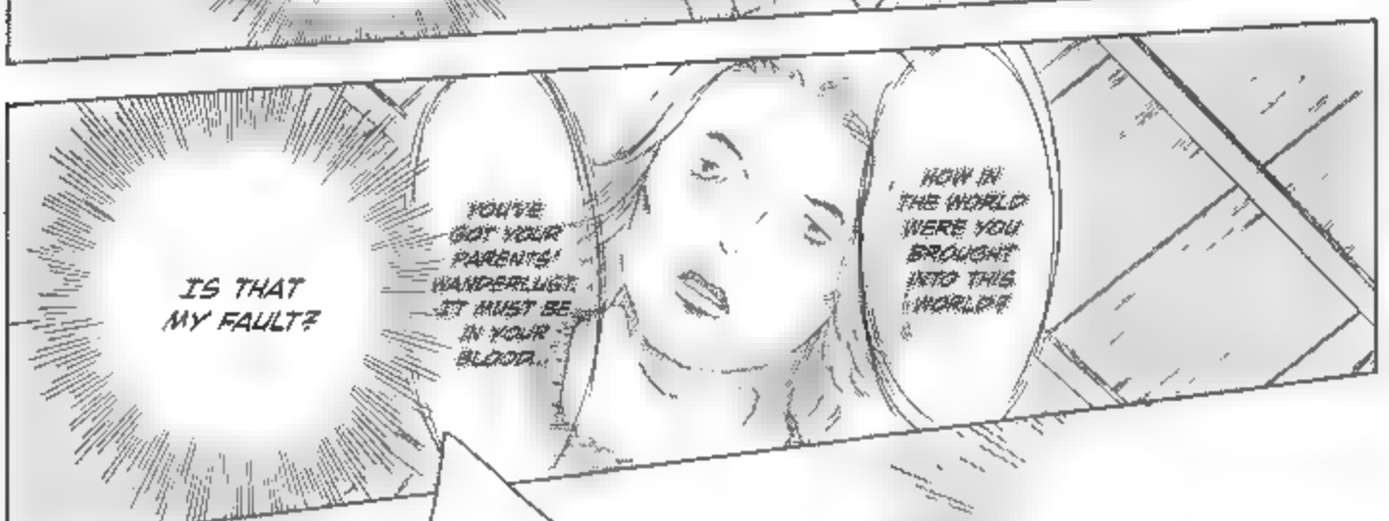
Oh, shit! I forgot to call work!
It happened so suddenly I didn't have a chance to ask permission to have a leave of absence.
Crap. He's definitely going to get pissed at me again.
You'll be in trouble if I can't get in contact with you.
My cel. was turned off? I didn't know.
Hmph! The boonies are just as depressing as the city...
WHATCHA BEEN DOIN'?
YER HER ONLY DAUGHTER.
AND YA GOT HERE SO LATE!
IT'S SUMMERTIME, SO THE WAKE'S ALREADY OVER.
AH MADE DO WITH THE PEOPLE IN THE NEIGHBAHHOOD.
ON TOP OF THAT, COMIN' TA THE FUNERAL IN THAT GETUP.
BUT ...
IT'S BECAUSE IT'S REALLY HOT.
AH DUNNO WHAT KIND OF IMMORAL LIFE YA BEEN LEADIN' ABROAD.
Ah, I remembered.

In such a rural area, a backwater insular town like this one, we were always treated like strangers. How do they see this? The funeral of a lonely, immoral woman... Is it to be treated like a spectacle?
It's that stare... again.
They stared with the same expressions they leveled on me because of my immoral outfit. No one stops to think that maybe I'm dressed this way because I rushed here after hearing the news in whatever I was wearing at the moment.
I am living a clean, honest life.
GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE IT'S YOU BLACKIE YOU'RE STILL ALIVE
YOU REALLY SURPRISED ME GREAT GREAT
...with its cheerless, gloomy...
MEOW
The unabashed, unrelenting stare of the people living in this town...

...dull pain
WOW. IT'S YOU.
HUH...? LIGHT...
HAVEN'T YOU...?
AGED
QUITE A BIT.
PLEASE DON'T PUT ME IN THE SAME CATEGORY AS THAT PERSON. IT WASN'T MY INTENTION TO LEAVE HER ALL ALONE.
UNBELIEVABLE! LIKE MOTHER LIKE DAUGHTER.
...SHE LEFT BEHIND SUCH AN OLD LADY... AND WENT TO TOKYO.
HER MOM WAS BAD NEWS, BUT...

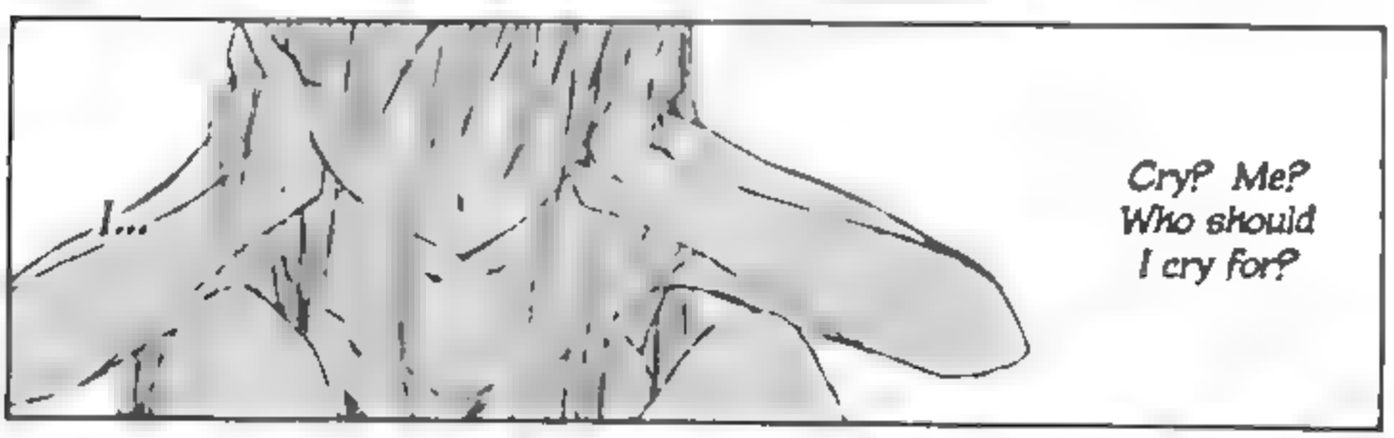
YEAH, THAT'S TRUE.
YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO OR WHERE YOUR FATHER IS?
I'LL EVEN SEND MONEY..

I HAVE NO GUARDIAN TO SPEAK OF.
YOU'RE A MINOR? WHERE'S YOUR GUARDIAN'S SIGNATURE?


IS THAT MY FAULT?
YOU'VE GOT YOUR PARENTS' WANDERLUST. IT MUST BE IN YOUR BLOOD..
HOW IN THE WORLD WERE YOU BROUGHT INTO THIS WORLD?

AND JUST LIKE THAT...
ON TOP OF THAT, RANDOMLY SETTLING DOWN IN SUCH A BACKWATER TOWN..
THANKS TO HER, I COULDN'T MAKE A SINGLE FRIEND OR HAVE ONE GOOD CHILDHOOD MEMORY.
IT'S ALL THAT PERSON'S FAULT! MOVING FROM ONE TOWN TO ANOTHER, LIVING OUT HER OWN WILLFUL DESIRES!

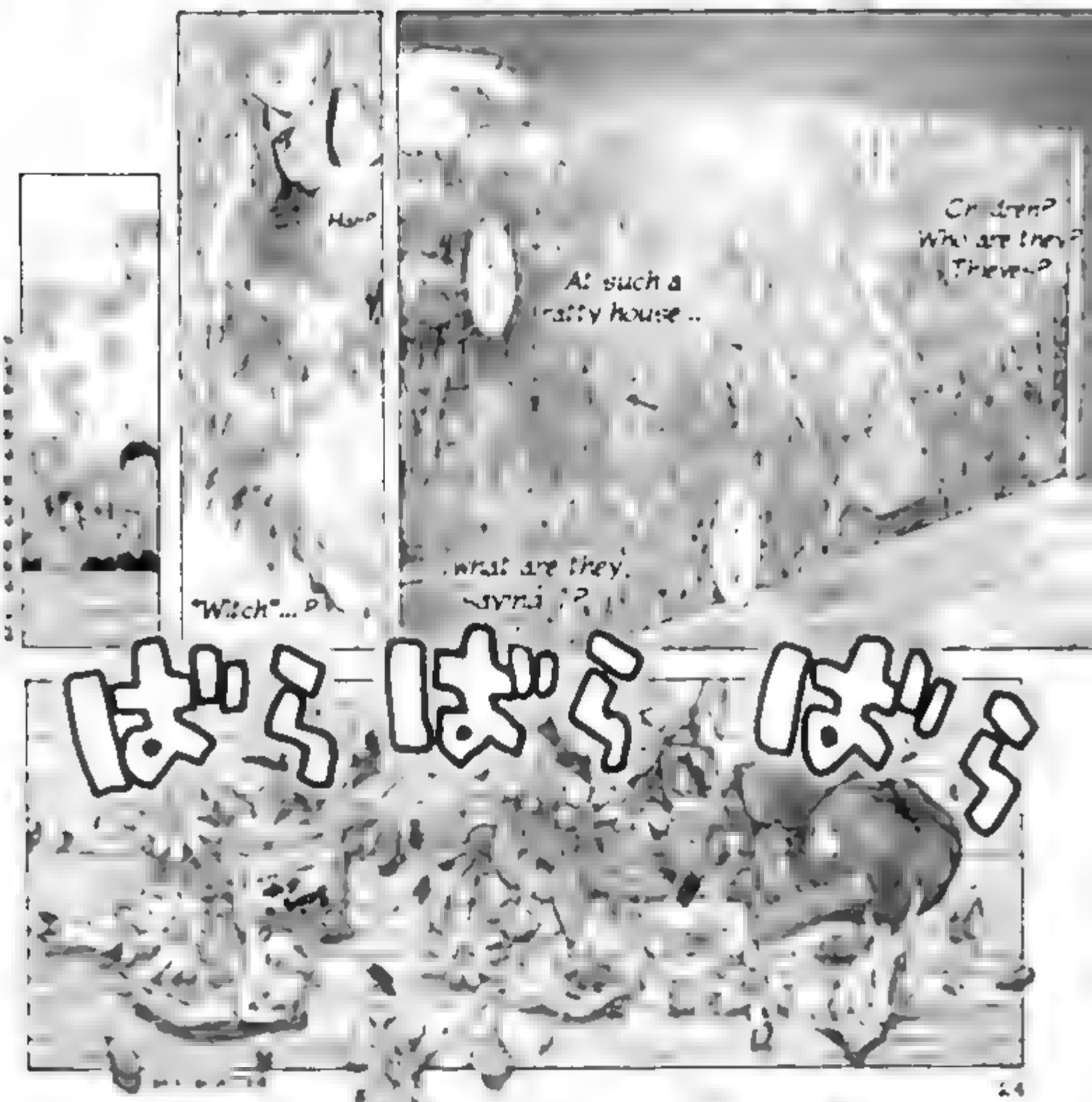
MEOW
...
SHE DIED
NO!
I'M NOT AN
UNGRATEFUL
CHILD!
THAT GIRL
HASN'T
SHED A
SINGLE
TEAR.
WHY DO
YOU SEE
THAT?


I...
Cry? Me?
Who should
I cry for?

The lord will
forgive you.
The lord...
You can't cheat your
painful emotions.
Please, step into
the church.

I will not cry.
AH!
RUB
easy for me,
can you...?

Ahh, where's my sketchbook...
I was so rushed did I forget to bring it?
I...
THUMP
I don't draw anything anymore.


Hm?
"Witch"...?
At such a
...what are they,
Or even?
Who are they?
There?
ばら ばら ばら

WH-WHAT IS THAT STUFF?
FILTHY GARBAGE...
EH? EH? THAT'S HORRIBLE... ISN'T THAT TRASH?!
HEY! YOU CAN'T JUST DO THAT ON SOMEBODY'S PORCH, NO MATTER HOW DECREPIT THE PLACE MAY BE!
BLUSH
Wahhh! Is that the corpse of an INSECT?!
Th-those flowers...
They're the loud, obnoxious children I passed on the bridge this afternoon!
DAMN! DOWN TO THE LITTLE BRATS...
EVERYBODY IN THIS TOWN MAKES FUN OF...
SFX. CRUNCH
...the white boy...

A
Firefly.

That was
a Funeral.

the firefly...
the sound of bell-grasshoppers,
pretty little pebbles and sea shells,
oddly-shaped tomatoes picked from the fields,
a partially unwrapped piece of gum,
Dried out objects from the beach,
(...and that corpse.)
And...
...wildflowers.
In this town, the children were, in their own way, grieving...
...for the death of the woman who all the adults could not bear to be with.
HEY, BLACKIE. ARE YOU GOING TO DRINK ANYTHING?
NOW, THE ONLY ONE IN THIS WORLD WHO KNOWS ANYTHING ABOUT ME...
sigh
...IS YOU. MEOW.

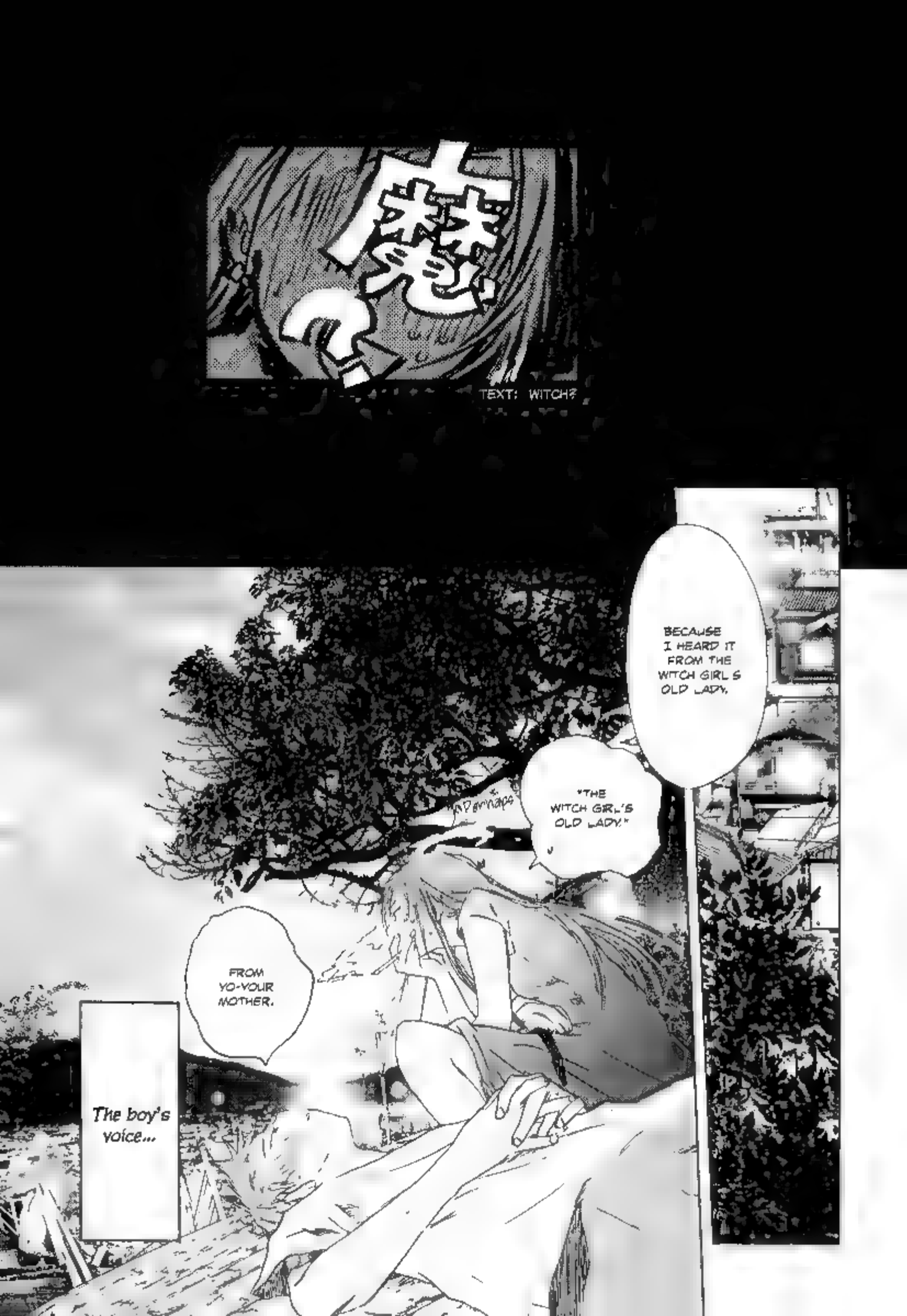
THE CAT'S TIME ON EARTH...
...WAS UP.
THE SETTING SUN
POOR THING
POOR THING
Little old me, who had been soundly sleeping on the porch since morning, once again came to the realization that there wasn't anyone in this world who cared about me.
I decided to lay the cat to rest with my mother, who had cared for it all its life, and rushed through the dark streets that night toward the graveyard.
THE CAT
When I woke up, Blackie was dead.
STEP
STEP
STEP
I am not some pitiful girl...

From the unforgettable, resounding timbre of that "Pang!"...
I suddenly recalled with painful clarity my own stinging cheeks from childhood, from when my mother would slap my face.
BUT I TOLD YOU
Yeah... And with that, the woman started beating the kid.
AUNTIE, WHY DO YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO ABUSE ME?
AH ALREADY TOLD YA AH'M SO STRICT WITH YA ONLY 'CAUSE AH THINK YER SON "A AMOUNT" TO SOMETHIN
SLAP

... the white boy ...
Th-that boy is perhaps ...
HE CALLED HER "AUNTIE."
THEN, WHAT ABOUT HIS MOTHER ?
haa
haa
haa
haa
Why is it that I remembered this fragile-looking little boy?
Among all the sun-tanned children in this town, he is the only one who is extremely pale.
SFX. SLAM!

The moonlight that shimmers over his white skin.
The narrow chest.
The sweat...
On top of that...
... the crumpled and wilted flowers.
What ...
... am I doing ...
What... am I...
SFX THUMP

AHHH, THE WITCH GIRL!


TEXT: WITCH?
BECAUSE I HEARD IT FROM THE WITCH GIRL'S OLD LADY.
"THE WITCH GIRL'S OLD LADY."
FROM YO-YOUR MOTHER.
The boy's voice...

... was more childish than I had imagined from his subtly unperturbed outward appearance.
It still had the resonance of a young boy who has yet to reach puberty.
YOU CAN FLY INTO THE SKY, RIGHT? UMMM
HUH?
YOUR OLD LADY OFTEN WOULD SAY, "I'M ALREADY TOO OLD, SO I CAN'T FLY ANYMORE. BUT MY DAUGHTER, SHE..."
THAT FUCKING OLD LADY... I'M GOING TO KILL HER. IF SHE WEREN'T ALREADY DEAD.
SHAKE SHAKE
A GIRL WALKING AROUND IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT...
...CARRYING AROUND THE CORPSE OF A BLACK CAT.
HEY! WHAT ARE YOU SAYING ABOUT ME...?
PLOP
UMM
LH WHAT IS THIS?
ehh
UHHH

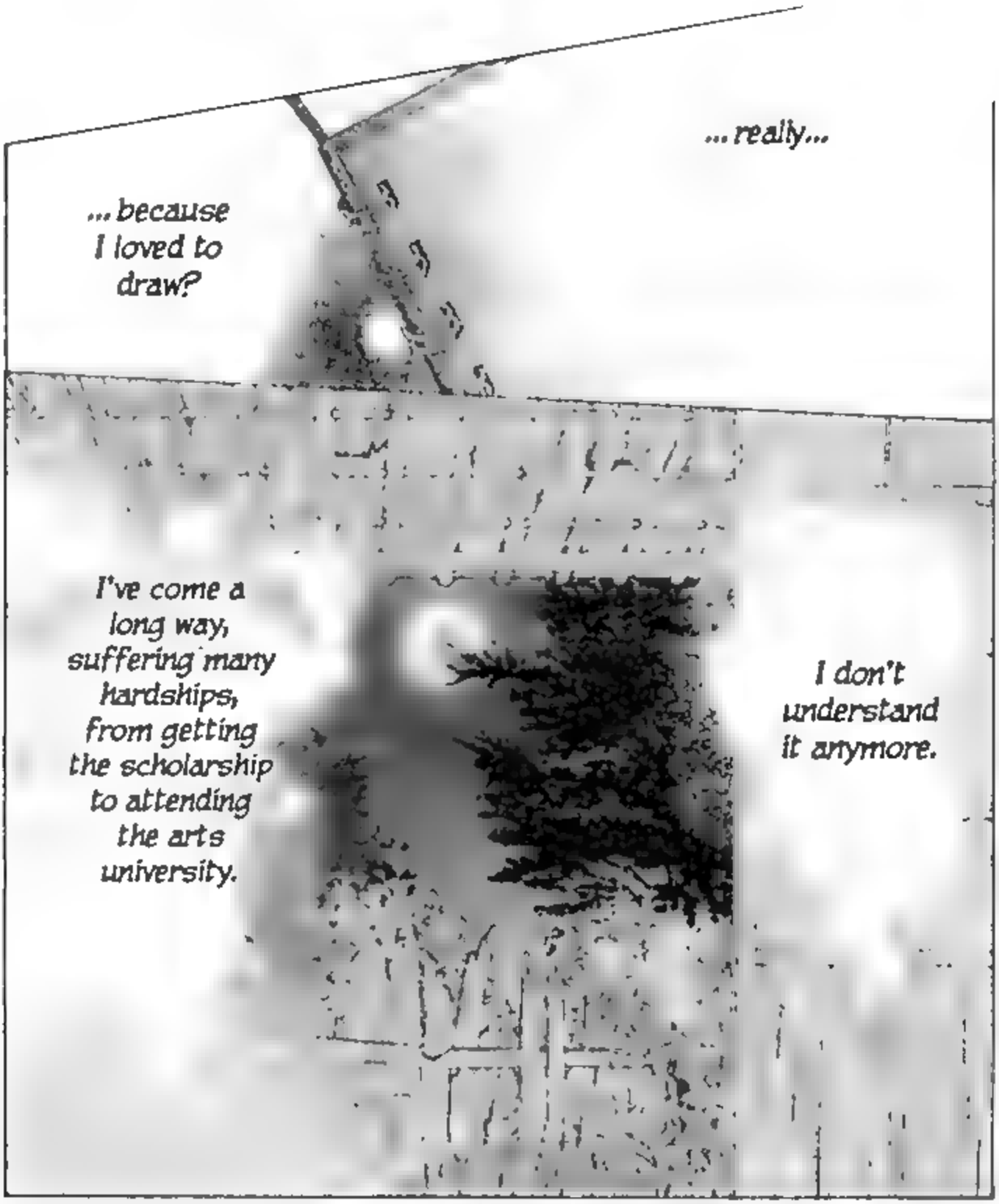
SOMETHING...
...
OOOHHH
AH HEH HEH, ISN'T IT SCARY?
HEH HEH HEH, I'M TH NKING OF US NG THIS CORPSE TO PERFORM A MAGIC RITUAL.
just kidding
A SADISTIC MIND
WIDE EYED
SFX: STARTLED
YEAH, UMM. SOMETIMES THERE ARE TWO OF THEM, AND SOMETIMES THERE ARE THREE OF THEM. . YEAH!
(JUST BLABBERING)
THEN WHEN THE CLOCK STRIKES TWELVE A DEVIL WILL COME OUT BUT YOU CAN'T SEE IT
UMM. EHHH. . YEAH. THAT'S IT. WHEN SOMEONE DIES AND IS BURIED, I TAKE THE CORPSE OF A CAT TO THE CEMETERY
SFX. THROB, THROB, THROB
SFX. SITS UP
AND WHEN THE DEVIL COMES TO SNATCH AWAY THE DEAD BODY, WE'LL CHANT AN INCANTATION OVER THE BURIED CAT..
WELL, WHEN THE DEVIL ARRIVES, THERE WILL BE A "WHOOSH" LIKE THE WIND BLOWING TO ANNOUNCE HIS ARRIVAL.
IF YOU CAN'T SEE T, HOW DO YOU KNOW THE DEVIL IS THERE?
SFX. GACK

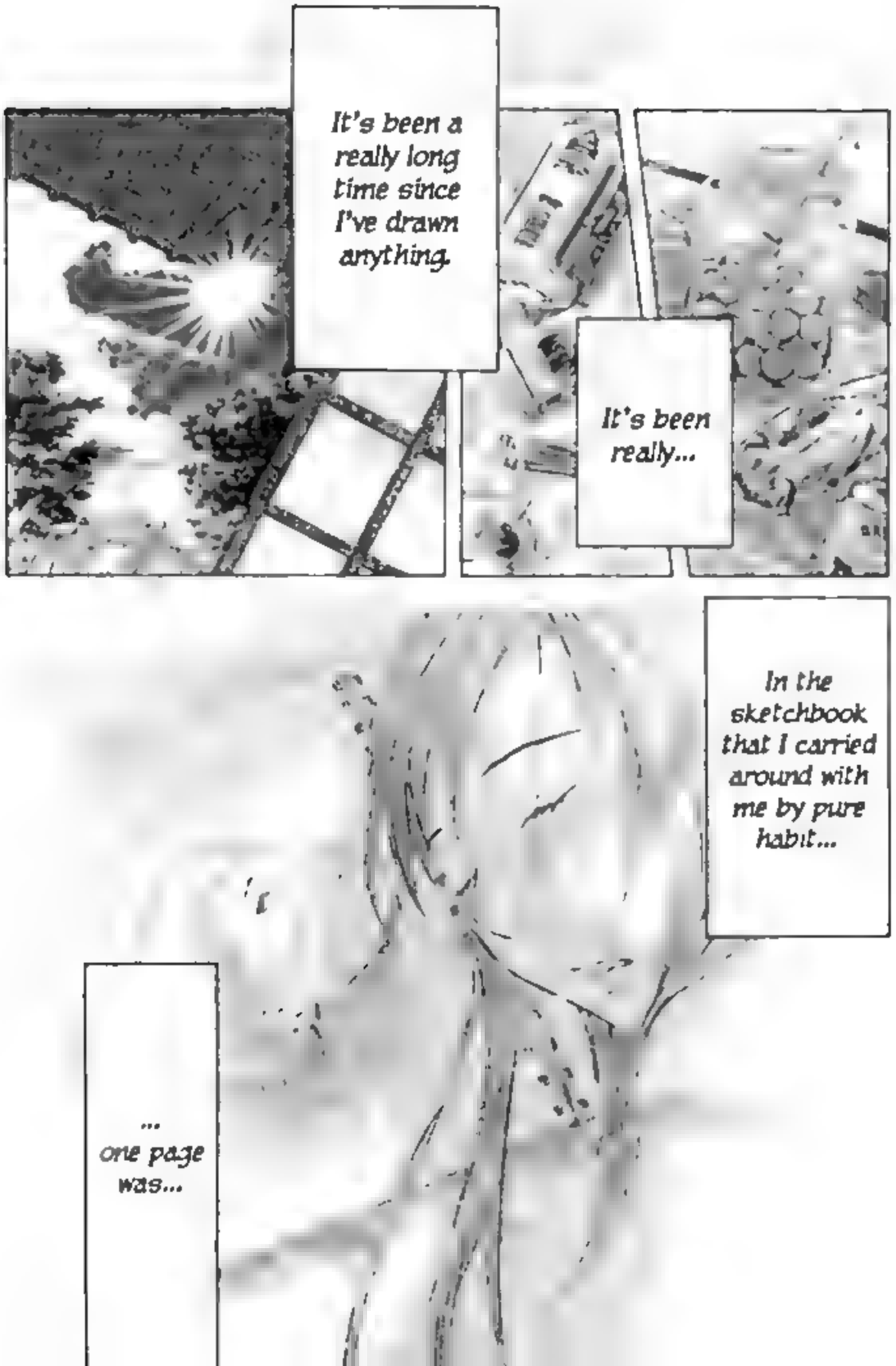
THE DEVIL WILL TAKE THE CORPSE AND THE CAT WILL FOLLOW THE DEVIL. AND THE SPELLCASTERS WILL FOLLOW THE CAT. AND TA-DA! YOU WILL HAVE SEVERED THE STRINGS OF FATE.
...AND THEN THERE'S NO GOING BACK...
THE MAGICAL RITUAL
WHAT?!
SCARY!
HEY, CAN I DO THAT WITH YOU?!
SC-
SC...
WOW, HE REALLY BELIEVED ME. .
WHY?! IF YOU DON'T HURRY, WON'T THE DEVIL COME AND TAKE THE BODY AWAY?
I HAVE TO GO HOME TO TOKYO IN A HURRY, OR MY JOB WILL BE. .
AH. TODAY'S NO GOOD.
I'll do it...

I... IDIOT! THE MAGIC I AM TALKING ABOUT CAN ONLY BE DONE AT MIDNIGHT!
AH...
I'VE REALLY GOTTEN INTO THIS ONE.
BUT BY MIDNIGHT TONIGHT IT WILL BE SUNDAY. AND ON THE DAY OF THE SABBATH, THE DEVIL JUST LOUNGES ABOUT DOING NOTHING...
THAT'S A PROMISE! REMEMBER: "MEOW." YOU HAVE TO SAY, "MEOW."
EXCITED
I GET IT!
GREAT. SO, I'LL BE GOING N-
AS LONG AS IT'S MIDNIGHT RIGHT?!
AH! GOTTA GO OR AUNTIE WILL GET MAD AT ME.
THE HOUSE WITH THE BLUE ROOF IN THE FOURTH DISTRICT!
THEN COME MEET ME TOMORROW NIGHT!
LATER! SEE YA TOMORROW AT MIDNIGHT!
THE MEETING SIGNAL WILL BE A MEOW
NO. . THAT'S.
MEOW?
...

SFX: CHRP x4

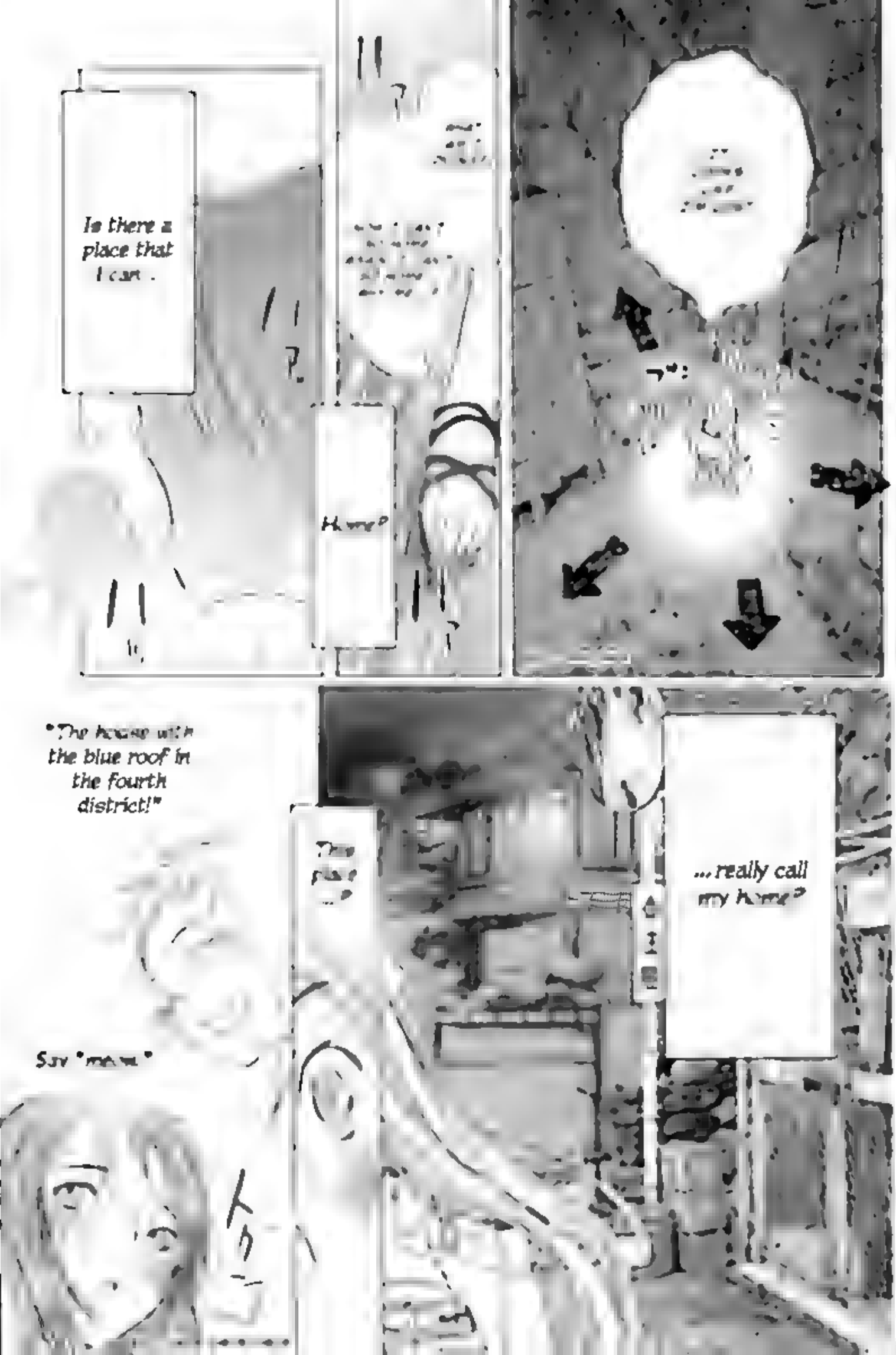
Was the reason
I wanted to run away
from this town...


...because I loved to draw?
...really...
I've come a long way, suffering many hardships, from getting the scholarship to attending the arts university.
I don't understand it anymore.


It's been a really long time since I've drawn anything.
It's been really...
In the sketchbook that I carried around with me by pure habit...
... one page was...

Only one page of
the entire book had
anything of importance.
A drawing made with
care and love.

I HAVE TO CALL WORK!
I REALLY NEED TO BUY THE CAT AND HURRY BACK HOME
AND TO MAKE THINGS WORSE, THIS PLACE IS CREEPY AS HELL
I'M NOT GOING TO CATCH THE LAST TRAIN
AHHHH, I'M GETTING FIRED FROM MY JOB.
うわあああん
AND TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE
DAMN IT EVERYWHERE YOU GO IN THIS TOWN IS HILL AFTER HILL
..TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE..


Is there a place that I can .
Home?
"The house with the blue roof in the fourth district!"
... really call my home?

SFX: WHOO WHOO WHOO

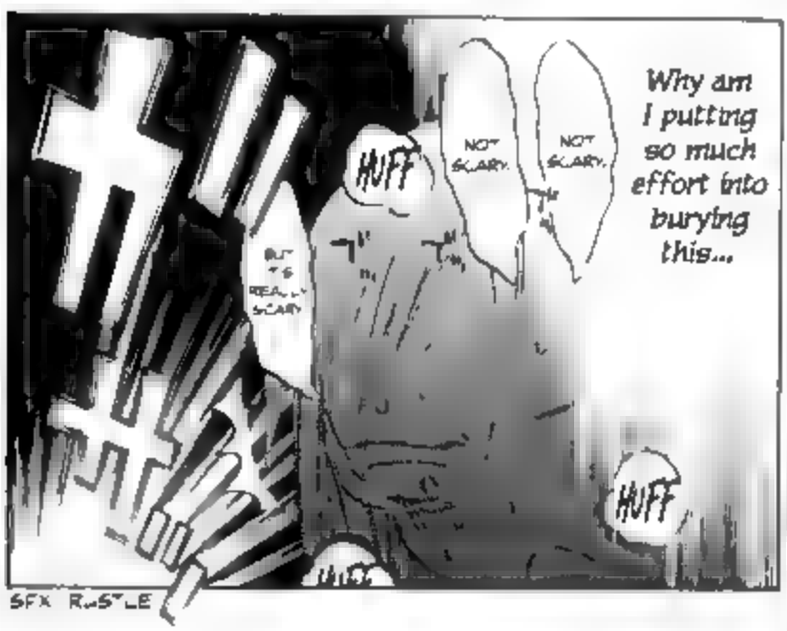
WHAT IS THIS I'M
BÄWLS
AW~! I'M LIKE A LITTLE KID!
RUSTLE
EEK!

digging a meaningless grave, burying this cat....

...going back and forth on this street,

What is it I'm doing...

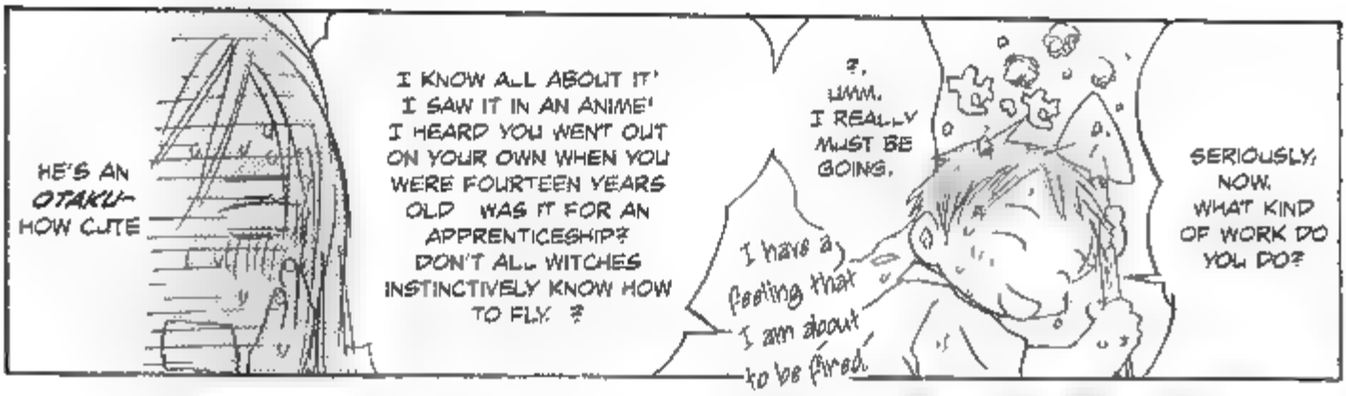
It's just a place to live.



SFX: SURPRISE
SFX: RUSTLE RUSTLE RUSTLE
SFX: RUSTLE
WHAT THE HELL?! YOU STARTED WITHOUT ME!
*couldn't help it
EEEE

Y-YOU!
NOT YOU. THE NAME IS TARO!
SFX: TA-DA
WELL, WHATEVER. NOW, LET'S GET STARTED!
AH! OK, TARO? UM, THERE WAS A REASON FOR. .
WHAT REASON?
THAT. UMM.
the angry middle schooler
EEK! GOT HIM ANGRY.
SFX SURPRISE

LOOK, FOR ME, IN WEDDINGS, IN MEMORIAL SERVICES, IN FUNERALS, I ALWAYS LOOK LIKE THIS.
A FORMAL OCCASION?
WHY, HUH? AUNTIE ALWAYS TELLS ME TO WEAR MY UNIFORM FOR FORMAL OCCASIONS.
SFX: CHOP CHOP CHOP
HMM. WHAT IS THAT? WHY ARE YOU IN YOUR UNIFORM?
I wonder why... I am suddenly reminded of the useless boyfriend that I went out with and the shopkeeper who always harassed me.
SFX: NOD NOD
I see. That's the case for the middle schooler.
Why is it the normally very shy little me managed to talk with this kid so naturally...?
BY THE WAY, YESTERDAY I WAS SCARED.
I AM NOW A "STRANGE WOMAN."
I AM SO RELIEVED!
AND YOU WEREN'T A WITCH, THEN YOU WOULD HAVE TO BE A VERY STRANGE WOMAN.
BOY, AM I GLAD THAT YOU'RE A WITCH! 'CAUSE IF YOU WANDERED AROUND TOWN IN THAT EERIE OUTFIT, CARRYING AROUND A DEAD BLACK CAT AT THAT TIME OF NIGHT,


HE'S AN OTAKU— HOW CUTE
I KNOW ALL ABOUT IT! I SAW IT IN AN ANIME! I HEARD YOU WENT OUT ON YOUR OWN WHEN YOU WERE FOURTEEN YEARS OLD. WAS IT FOR AN APPRENTICESHIP? DON'T ALL WITCHES INSTINCTIVELY KNOW HOW TO FLY. ?
?. UMM. I REALLY MUST BE GOING.
I have a feeling that I am about to be fired.
SERIOUSLY, NOW. WHAT KIND OF WORK DO YOU DO?

SFX: SURPRISE

WILL IT BE THOSE WOMEN? DIDN'T ALL THE LADIES IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD SAY SOME AWFUL THINGS TO YOU?
ESPECIALLY YOUR NEIGHBOR, THAT RICH OLD HAG.
'CAUSE ALL THE ADULTS HERE ARE LIKE THAT.
DID YOU GET ANGRY?

Huh...
BECAUSE YOUR GRANDMA D'DN'T DO IT. SHE WAS SAYIN' THAT CURSES ARE NO GOOD.
BUT US KIDS, WE ALL STILL LOVED HER
SO DON'T YOU THINK ALL THE ADULTS HERE ARE A BIT SELF-RIGHTEOUS?
THEY SAY THAT SINS WILL BE PUNISHED.
SHE WAS COOL EVEN THOUGH SHE WAS ALL ALONE.
SHE WOULDN'T GO TO SUNDAY MASSES AND SHE STILL MANAGED TO LIVE PEACEFULLY.
AND YOUR OLD WITCH LADY,
BUT THEY CLEARLY TOLD US THAT THEY HATED
YOUR RICH OLD NEIGHBOR DID, TOO.
Ahh...
THAT'S WHY THEY FORBADE US KIDS FROM TALKING TO THE OLD WITCH LADY AND NEVER GAVE US A GOOD REASON.

I MEAN THERE ARE MOUNDS AND MOUNDS OF UNRESOLVED ISSUES THAT MAKE US REALLY ANGRY.
CAUSE SHE WAS VERY DIRECT WITH US.
EVEN IF WE THOUGHT WE WOULD SOUND STUPID— THAT'S WHY WE RESPECTED HER.
ANYONE COULD TALK TO HER ABOUT ANYTHING THAT WE WANTED TO GET OFF OUR CHEST—
SHE DIDN'T REALLY UNDERSTAND ALL THE COMPLICATED STUFF, BUT SHE ALWAYS UNDERSTOOD US.
BUT, YEAH

THE ADULTS ARE REALLY SELFISH.
Ahh... that expression ...
SCHOOL
AND AT HOME

BUT THAT OLD LADY SAID THIS TO US,

THAT'S WHY SHE WOULDN'T CAST A CURSE FOR US.
"IT'S NO GOOD TO STEP ON OR INTRUDE ON ANOTHER PERSON'S LIFE."
"IT'S NO GOOD FOR PEOPLE TO LIVE WITHOUT HAPPINESS."

...among all the sun-tanned children in this village.

The single remarkably white child...

A red blush...

DO YOUR CHEEKS STILL HURT?

AH, UMM. YESTERDAY, YOU KNOW, WHY WERE YOU SLAPPED?

...like a hint of pubescent feelings spread across his cheeks.

THINKING OF KILLING A PERSON... UM, THAT REALLY GETS ME WORKED UP.

NEVER MIND.

IT'S NO BIG DEAL

EH, UMM.

EH THIS? HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS?

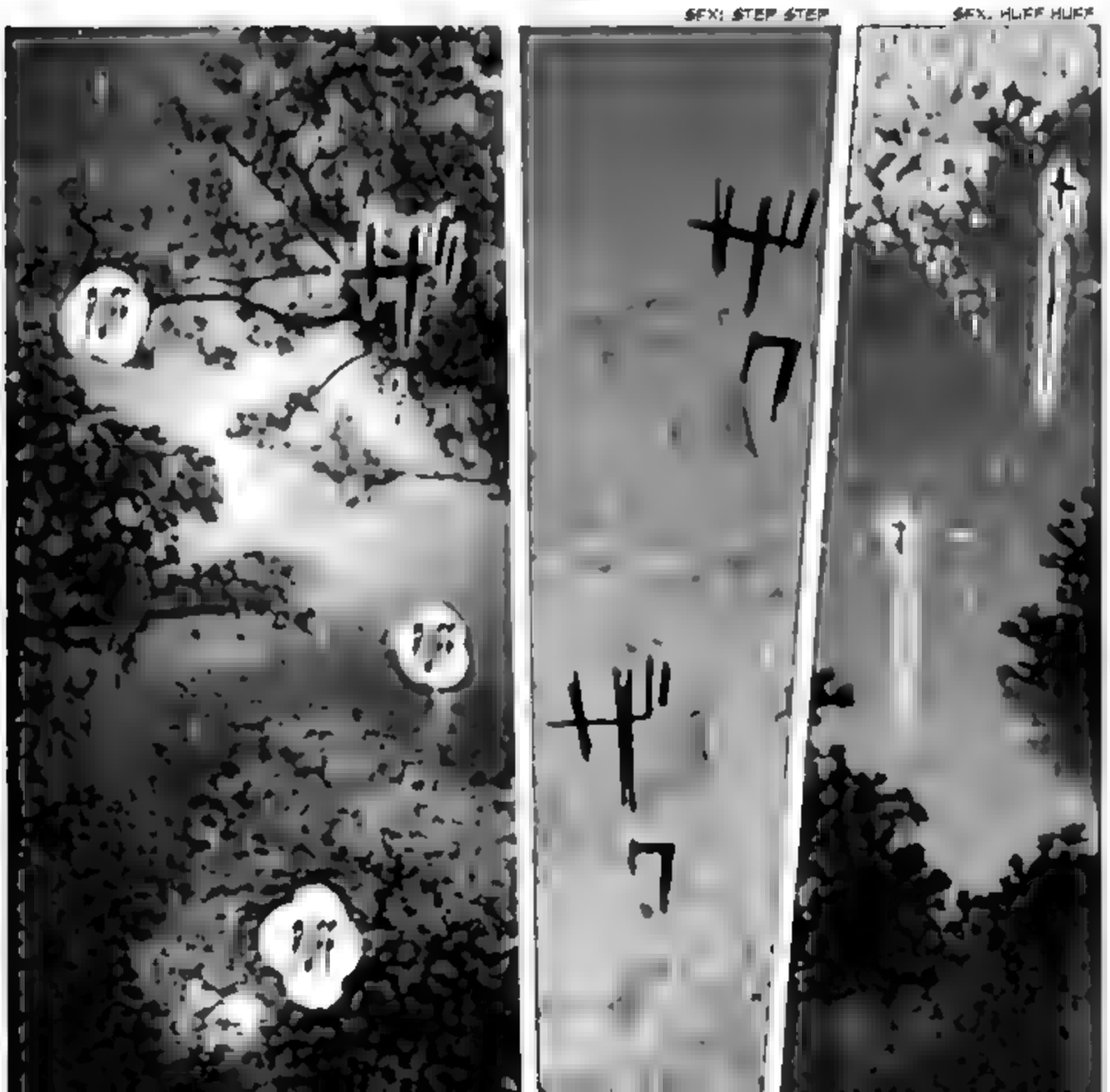
Cause she a witch?

I stared intently at his face that looked as if he'd just awoken from a dream.

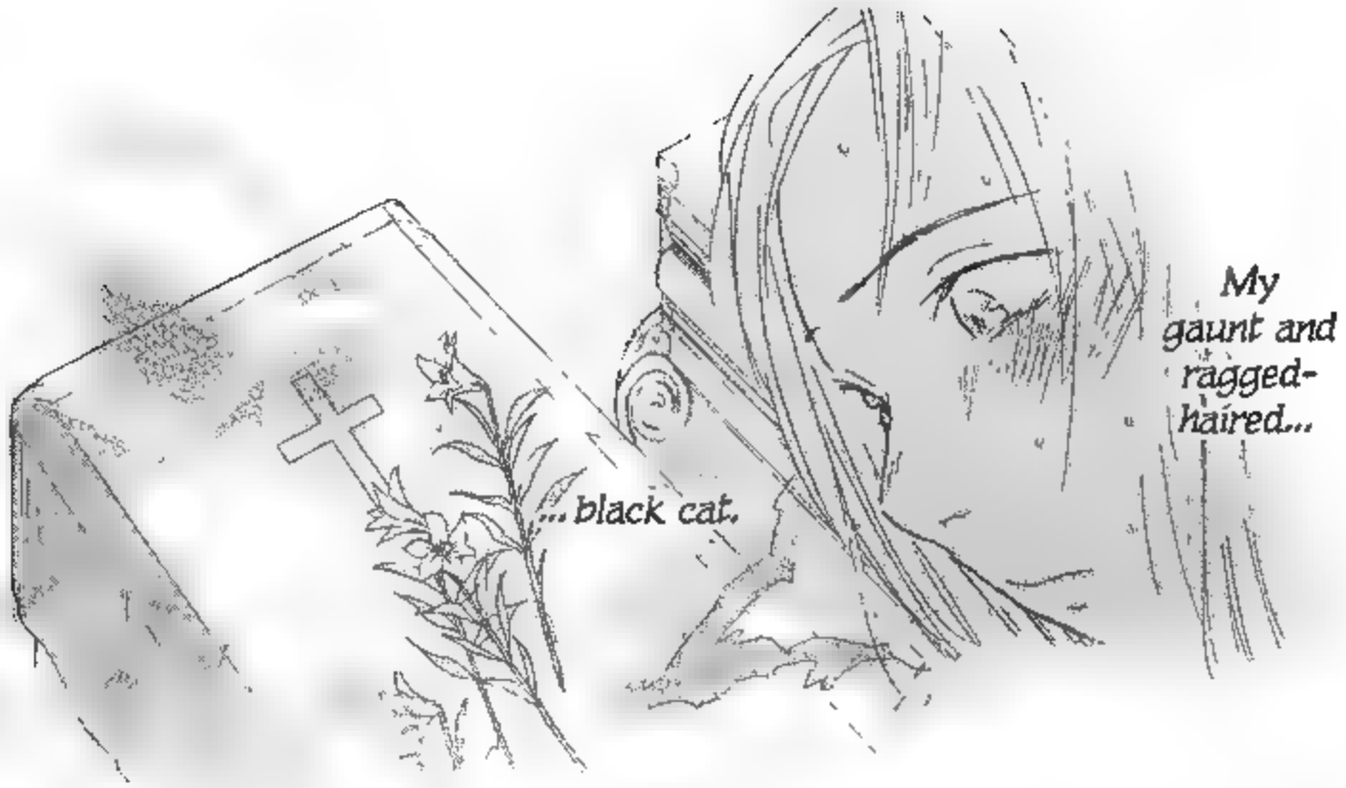
AH I'M SORR

And in a flash,

the boy suddenly erected a wall in between us.


Was there ever a time in my life...
...that made me have this sad expression on my face?
SFX: STEP STEP
SFX: HUFF HUFF

In the grave we dug, we laid the cat to rest.
deep of the night, only the sound of our breath



We felt that breaking the silence was a very bad thing to do.

Halfway through, for some reason, a strange emotion overcame both of us.

We even forgot to chant the incantations for the cat,

and simply ended the funeral ritual.

YEAH.

WELL, SHALL WE BURY IT?

HEY,

HEY.

LIMA
WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY?
HEY, PLEASE. C-COULD YOU TELL ME NOW?
YESTERDAY, I, BY CHANCE
.WITNESSED MY SISTER BREAKING THE ELLPTICAL MACHINE THAT'S REALLY IMPORTANT TO MY HEALTH-FREAK AUNT.
I , ACTUALLY, RIGHT NOW. I'M LIVING AT MY AUNT'S HOUSE..
I knew it.
Nods
...
OK.
Elliptical...

"But just this once, the little goodie-two-shoes was gonna get it from my aunt...

...because auntie's heart rate and fat burning data was completely erased. She was told not to tamper around with it."

HAHAHAHAHA

AND MY SISTER, SHE-WELL JUST THE IMPORTANT STUFF, OK? I'M THE ONE WHO ALWAYS CAUSES TROUBLE...

I DIDN'T KNOW THAT.

...seeing with my own eyes the sight of my sister being punished..."

"I really, really looked forward to...

"I was really looking forward to that moment; I waited without watching TV or eating an afternoon snack..."

"Maybe auntie would hit that the little goodie-two-shoes like she hits me all the time."

"But..."

"TARO!"

SFX: SLAP SLAP SLAP

"Auntie knew that it wasn't me who did it..."
EVEN IF YA DIDN'T DO THIS, AH'M SURE YOU DID SO-METHIN' ELSE!
AH BEAT YA 'CAUSE YER MOTHER LEFT THE IMPORTANT TASK OF RAISIN' YA TO ME.
WAIT! THERE'S HOT COCOA. MADE JUST LIKE IN THAT AFTERNOON TV SHOW.
THIS MORNIN' YA DIDN'T DRINK THE GOYA JUICE THAT'S GOOD FOR YA.
'CAUSE ITS BITTER!
NYA NYA
LITTLE SIS
POINTLESS.
I wandered aimlessly around the town.
Maybe if I were to be run over by a car...
Maybe if I were to be stabbed by a passing demon...

Ahh...
Poor me...

If I were to die, would auntie really regret beating me all the time?

Then, when I came to, I was loitering in front of that girl's house... I... seriously thought about it...

If she were to find my completely deformed body here tomorrow morning,

she would cry for me, right?

Poor me.

The flower that she gave me...

Here, please accept this

RUSTLE

It's wilted so much...

Ah... Am I about to cry? Tears are really going to fall?!

A lot of them are going to fall.

I'm...
...crying!
IS THAT IT

IS THAT ALL IT WAS?!
THAT'S ALL IT WAS?!
IS THAT IT?
THAT'S ALL!
WHY, IT'S SO TRIVIAL!
I WAS REALLY SAD!
I- I'M NOT BEING STUPID...
IT WAS A REALLY TRAUMATIZING INCIDENT FOR ME!
You were serious.
Ah... That's true. Perhaps it true. I was being stupid.
The one who was really being stupid at that moment was...
I'M ABOUT TO CRY.
YOU'RE THE ONE BEING STUPID. THIS ISN'T A TIME TO BE LAUGHING.
Tell me why!
Yet...
Ahh... there was no mistaking it.

The adults wouldn't understand.

HUH?!
HUH!
ぼろぼろぼろぼろ
SFX: DRP DRP DRP DRP DRP DRP
I'm being such a fool...
WOW!
I really didn't have anything to be sad about...
Fool...
...there wasn't a single thing I wanted to cry about!

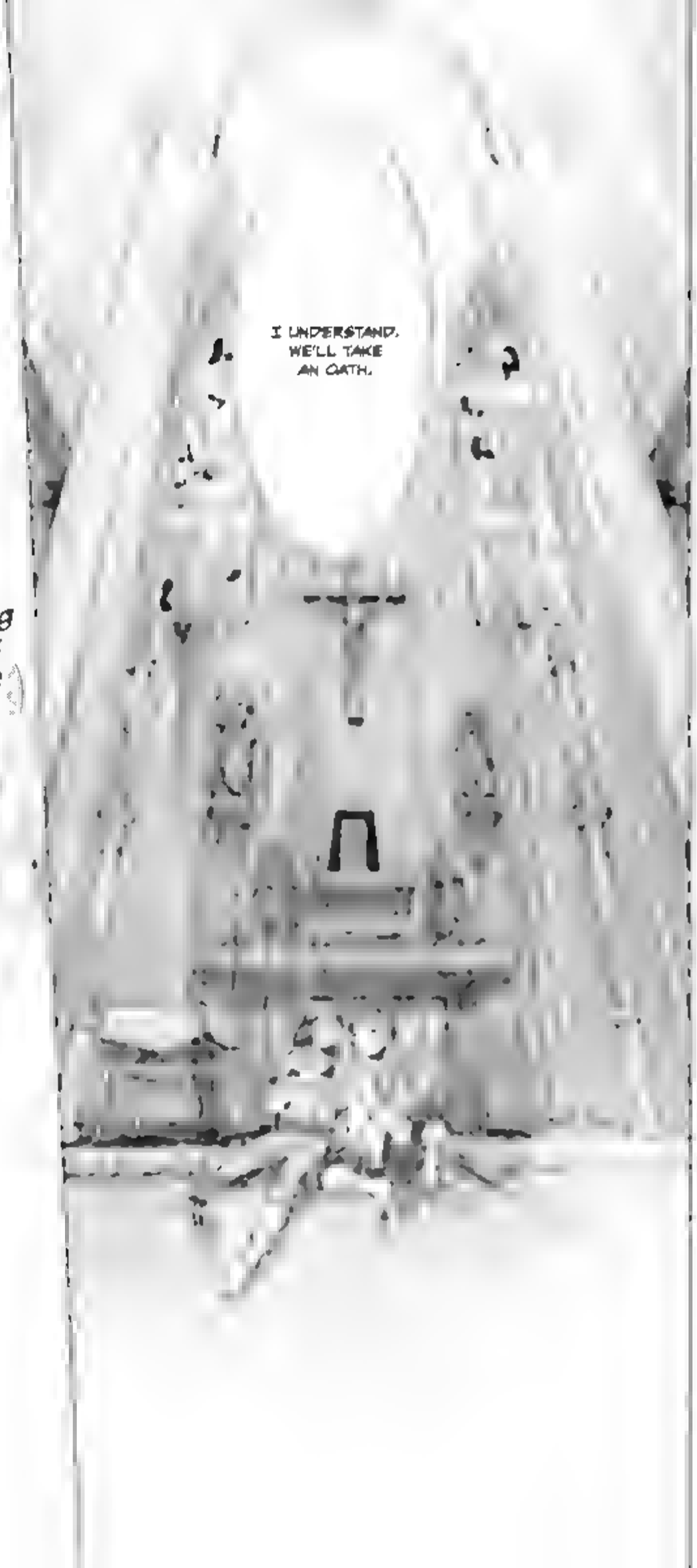
WELL? AREN'T I GOOD??
NOW IT'S MY TURN.
YOU'RE REALLY ☆GOOD.
Before I knew it,
I forgot about returning to Tokyo, and became enthralled in the game.
We must have looked very weird and silly,
and our laughs must have been weird, too.
As if we took part in a secret little game...
... of wallowing in our own misfortune,
for god knows how long.
Wiping our noses with our hands covered in mud, with our arms over each other's shoulder,
we cried and laughed at the same time.

...the figure started to flow out.
And once more...
"I can't fly anymore. But my daughter, she..."
...I felt as if I could hear her voice clearly.
After I cried for a while, uncontrolled...
...caught an echo of that sound
clearly...
...on a burst of wind that carried with it the smell of the sea...
It was at that moment...

YOU RECOGNIZED HIM?
THE MURDERER?!
Gulf
Gulf

ODAGIRI...
ODA..
,GIRI?
W-WAIT A MINUTE.
NOW THAT HE'S SHOWN HIS TRUE COLORS, GREAT. LET'S GO TELL PEOPLE.
OTHER BUBBLES HUFF HUFF HUFF HUFF HUFF
AHH, YES! HE'D DEFINITELY COME AFTER US.
OK!
HE'S GONE AS FAR AS COMMITTING MURDER ... IF HE WERE TO FIND OUT THAT IT WAS US THAT...
, BUT AMONG THE CHILDREN, HE'S UNIVERSALLY KNOWN. ,
,AS A SHADY CHARACTER A NASTY MAN.
HE'S A WELL KNOWN PERSON IN TOWN.
HE'S IN THE BUSINESS OF SELLING ANTIQUES TO RICH PEOPLE.
TO ALL THE ADULTS, HE PUTS UP A GOOD ACT.

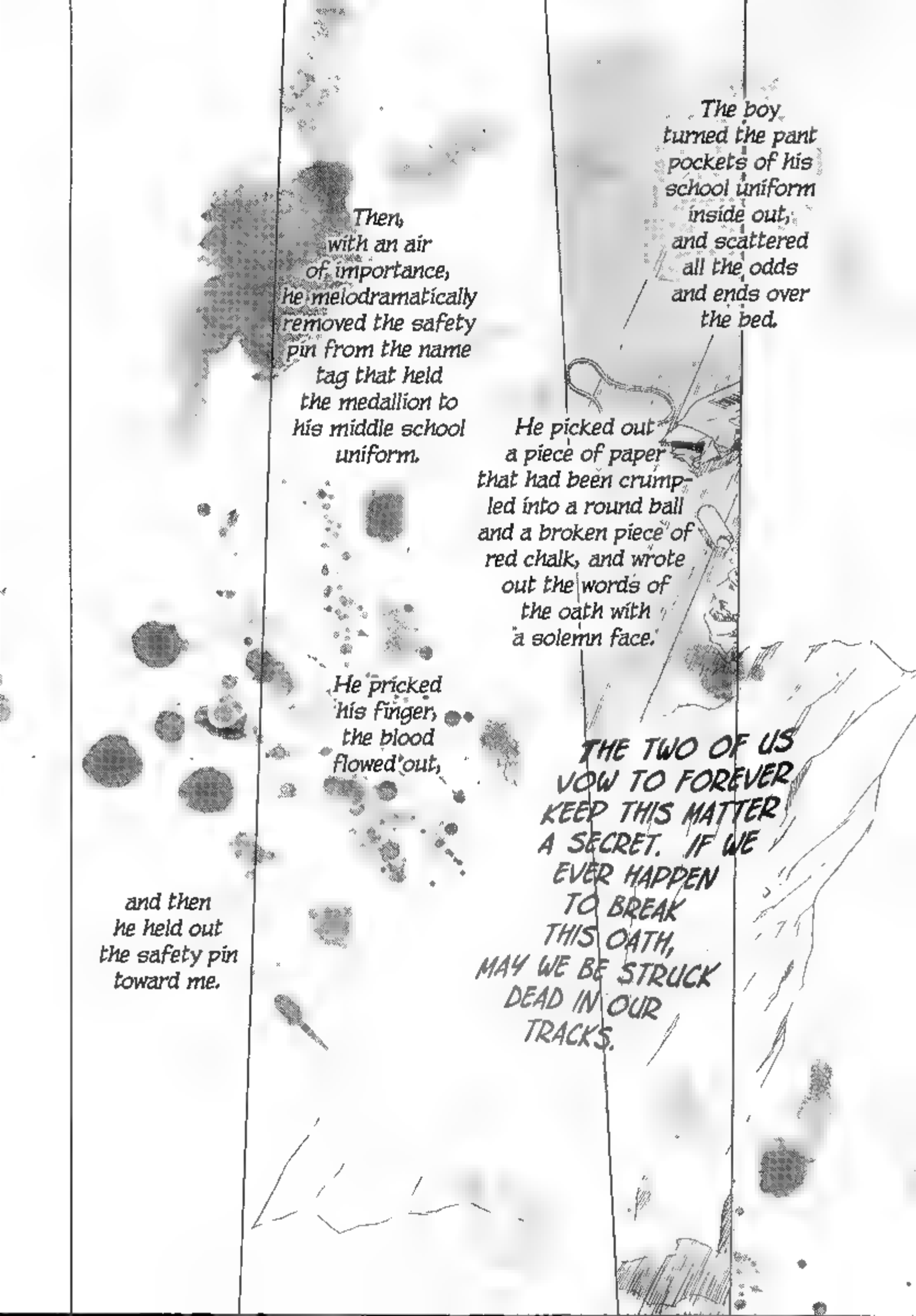
ARE YOU GOING TO KEEP THIS THING A SECRET?
YES. NOW LET'S MAKE A PROMISE NOT TO TELL ANYONE
はい、
PINKY PROMISES ARE USELESS! THAT'S SOMETHING ONLY GIRLS DO!
AND, ANYWAY, GIRLS WILL BETRAY YOU AND BLABBER THE SECRET TO EVERYONE!
HOW ABOUT WE WRITE OUT OUR OATH ON PAPER
YEAH! AND SIGN IT IN BLOOD!
I...
BLOOD!
...got really excited and nervous... just like a little kid.
Was it because I had unexpectedly witnessed a murder scene?
Or was it...



When I said those words that I ordinarily could not have imagined saying,

I found the throbbing in my chest had become ever more

They were such painful violent throbs, I couldn't breathe unless I tightly pressed my hand to my chest.


The boy turned the pant pockets of his school uniform inside out, and scattered all the odds and ends over the bed.
Then, with an air of importance, he melodramatically removed the safety pin from the name tag that held the medallion to his middle school uniform.
He picked out a piece of paper that had been crumpled into a round ball and a broken piece of red chalk, and wrote out the words of the oath with a solemn face.
He pricked his finger, the blood flowed out,
THE TWO OF US VOW TO FOREVER KEEP THIS MATTER A SECRET. IF WE EVER HAPPEN TO BREAK THIS OATH, MAY WE BE STRUCK DEAD IN OUR TRACKS.
and then he held out the safety pin toward me.

... with this blood-bound oath...
My very last summer started...
We looked on intently...
... with enthralled eyes at the sacred piece of scrap paper,
following wherever the bleeding fingertip traced...

I spent my very last summer with that young boy.
THE TWO OF US VOW TO
KEEP
A SECRET
TO
THIS OATH,
MAY
DEAD IN OUR TRACKS.
TARO HARU

Shin
Takahashi
Tom Sawyer
Pirates of Japan
Credits:
Scans: riseabove77
Translations: heidegger,
PolluxandCastor,
SekushiBijin84
terracannon876
Edits: kokoro-chin, riseabove77
QC: Saga, riseabove77

★SHIN PRESENTS★
TOM
★SAWYER★
TAKAHASHI SHIN
Chapter 2
BASED ON "THE ADVENTURES OF TOM SAWYER" BY MARK TWAIN

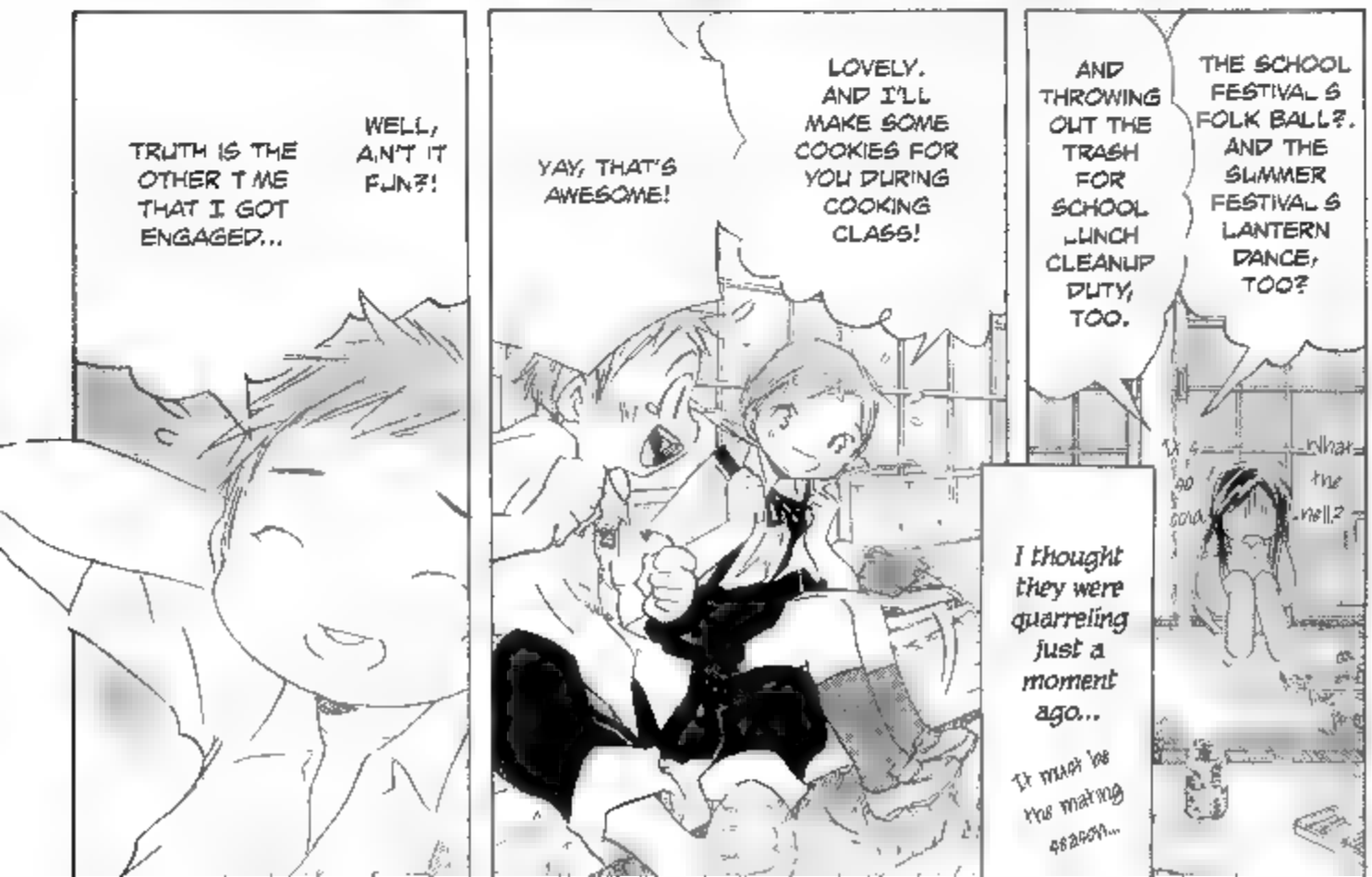
LET'S GET ENGAGED

I KNOW THAT
BUT
WELL SAY TO EACH OTHER THAT WE AIN'T EVER GOING TO MARRY ANY-BODY ELSE AND THEN WE KISS
KISS?!
WHAT'S ENGAGED?
IT'S WHEN WE MAKE A PROMISE TO GET MAR-RIED, YOU KNOW.

REMEMBER...
..WHAT I SAID WHEN I CONFESSED TO YOU LAST SUMMER?
YEAH..
THERE AIN'T NO WAY I'M TALKIN' 'BOUT THIS TO NOBODY!
NOBODY AT ALL!
BUT, YOU WON'T BE TELLING NOBODY ABOUT THIS, RIGHT?
THEN. LET'S LOOK INTO EACH OTHER'S EYES AND MAKE THE PROMISE.
OK..
But I'm right here, listening to you...
..LOVE YOU, TARO..
..I..

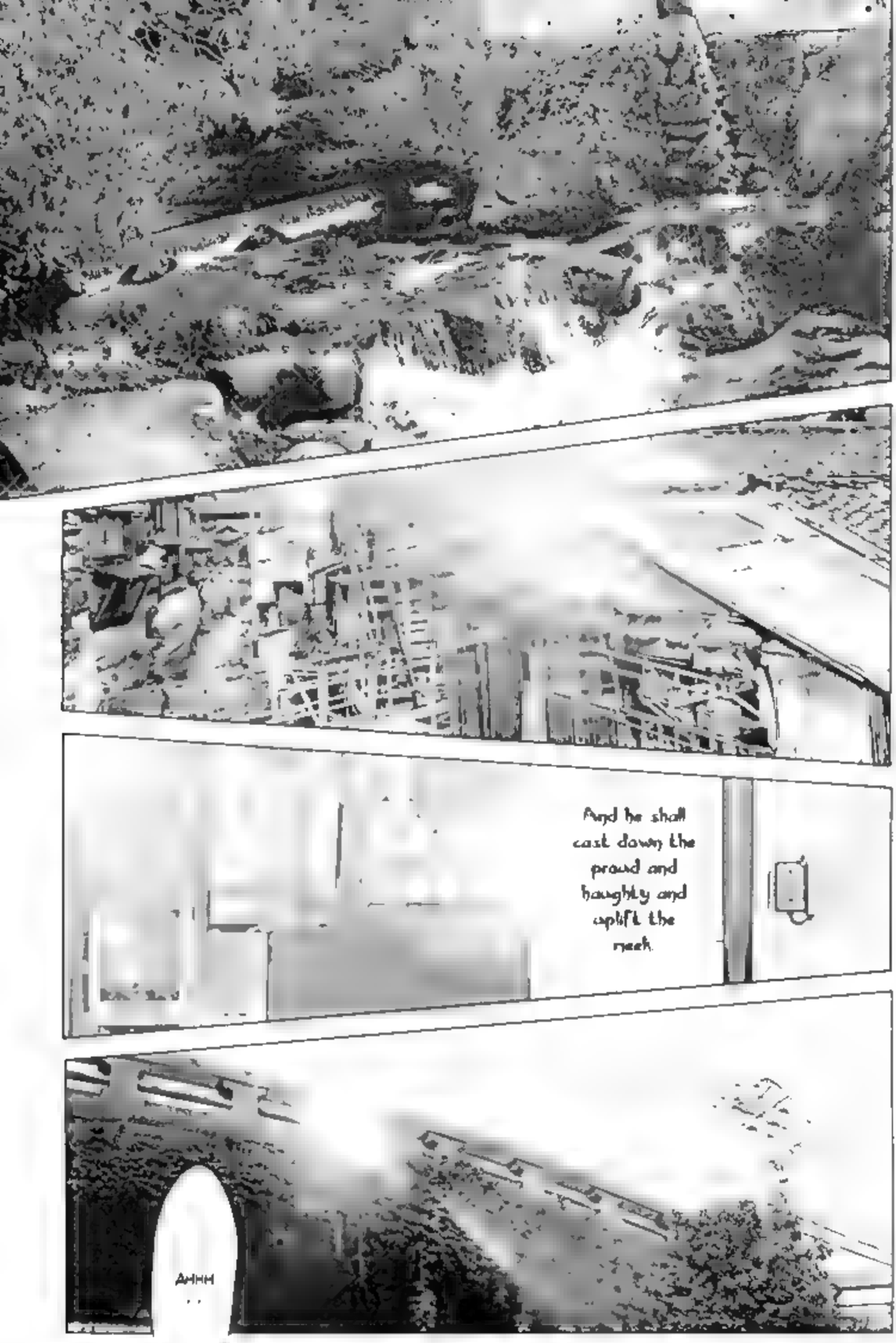
buzz
buzz
flirt
flirt
fufufu
HA HA HA HA
SHIVERS
SHIVERS
...on my front porch?!
What the hell are these two kids doing...

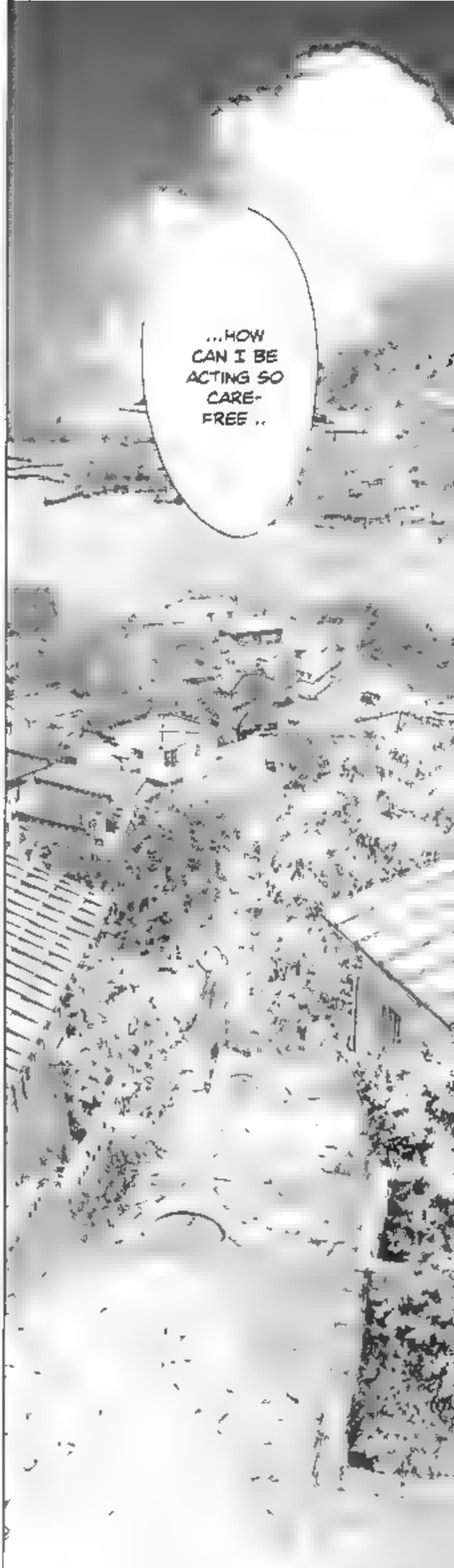
WOW, HOW FUN!
EVERY-THING!
EVERY-THING?!
FROM NOW ON, WE GET TO DO TOGETHER EVERYTHING A BOY AND A GIRL DO TO-GETHER!
YOU KNOW, RIGHT?! NOW THAT WE'RE ENGAGED,


TRUTH IS THE OTHER TIME THAT I GOT ENGAGED...
WELL, AIN'T IT FUN?!
YAY, THAT'S AWESOME!
LOVELY. AND I'LL MAKE SOME COOKIES FOR YOU DURING COOKING CLASS!
AND THROWING OUT THE TRASH FOR SCHOOL LUNCH CLEANUP DUTY, TOO.
THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL'S FOLK BALL?. AND THE SUMMER FESTIVAL'S LANTERN DANCE, TOO?
I thought they were quarreling just a moment ago...
It must be the making up...
what the hell?

ha ha ha ha ha
WHAT, IT'S NOT LIKE I LIKE THAT OTHER G'RL ANYMORE.
HUH?
AH... YOU WERE EN-GAGED TO SOMEONE ELSE..?
drip
drip
drip
sob
NO WONDER YOU'VE BEEN AVOIDING ME RE-CENTLY.
I KNEW IT! YOU STILL LIKE THAT GIRL!
SO YOU'RE TWO-TIMING?!
sob
YOU'RE SO CRUEL, TARO.
sob
No.
It's not like that
hold on a min-ute!
HOW DID IT GET LIKE THIS..?
HUH?!
EW, HOW CRUEL! HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT? YOU'RE SO COLD!
WHEN THE TIME COMES, YOU'LL TOSS ME ASIDE JUST LIKE THAT, TOO?
AHHH, NO..
IT'S NOT THAT I DISLIKE HER OR ANYTH NG..
We're friends after all...
shake-shake-shake
I CAN'T HEAR YOU!
I'S SAYIN' THAT WE WAS IN GRADE SCHOOL.
nooooooooooo

AUGHHH! WHYYYY?
ESCAPE FROM A TROUBLESOME SITUATION
...
I...
I...
hah
...
uH..
SHOES
It's been a few days since that night.
SFX cicadas buzzing

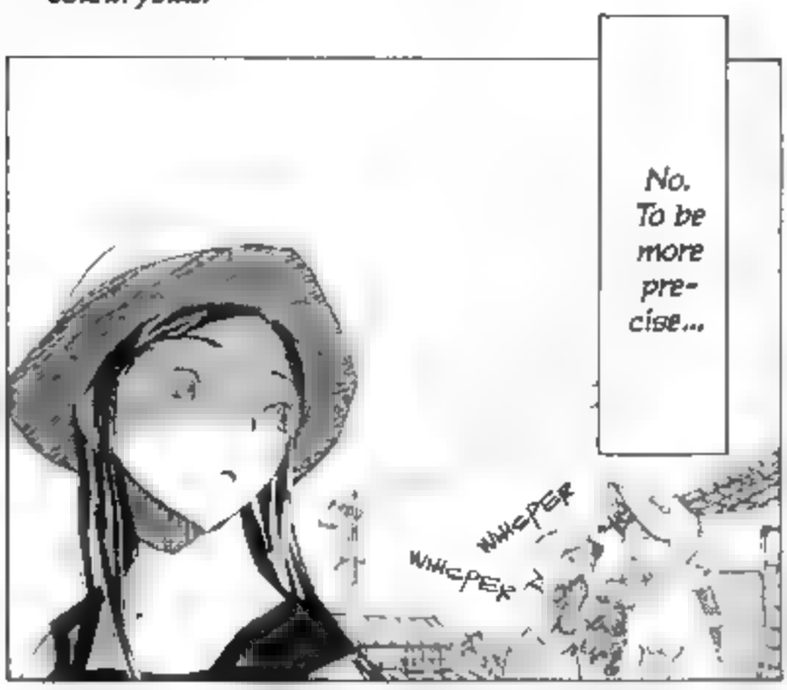

And he shall cast down the proud and haughty and uplift the meek.
AHHH
. .



There was no possible way for me,

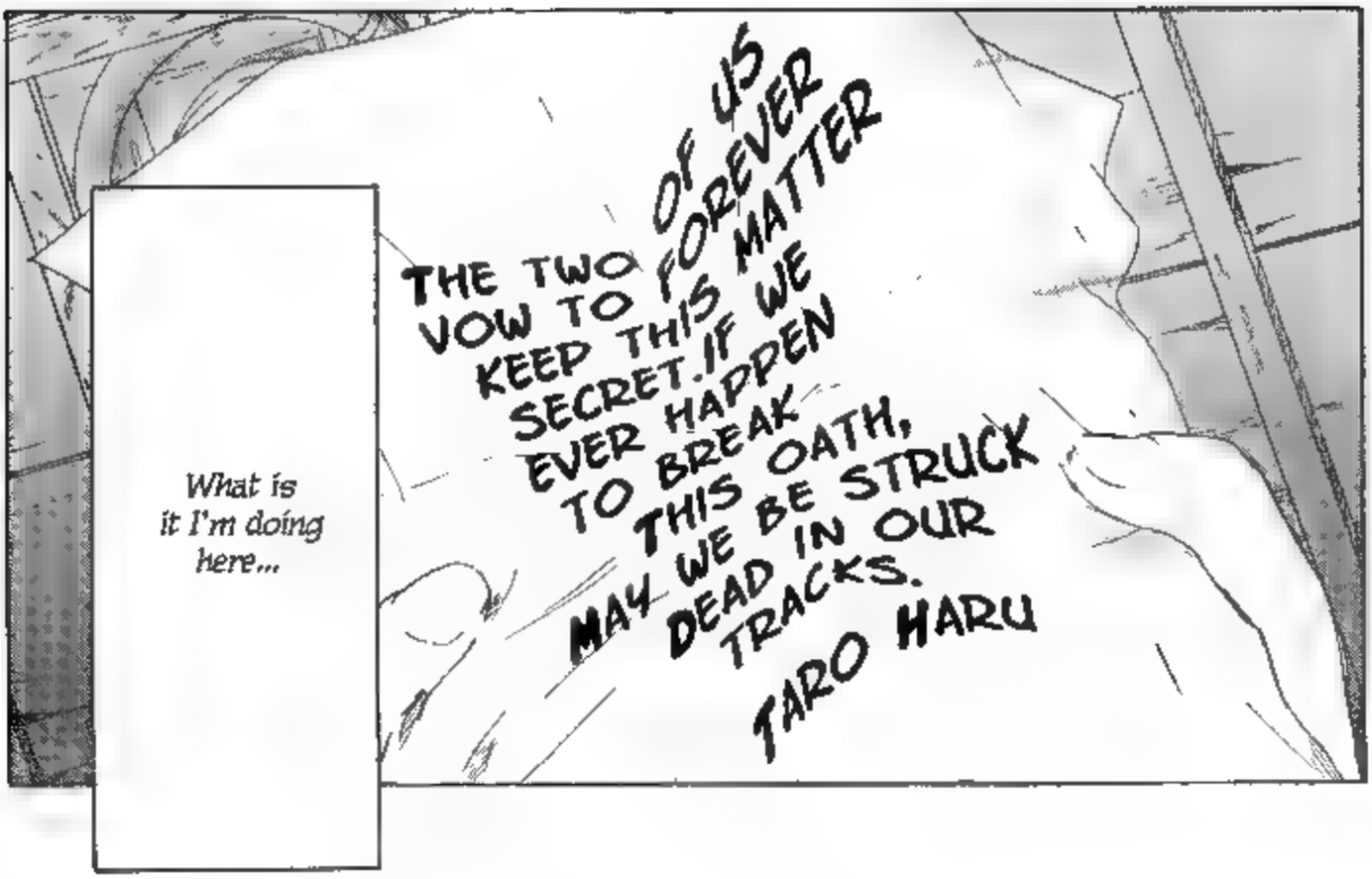
someone who knows no one in this village without any electricity,

to know what happened after that all-too-important event in this rural countryside.



... What-ever.
CHE
Ahhh... Why am I still here?
NO WAY.. BOSS, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!
IT'S FINE IF I DON'T EVER COME BACK .. AND MY PAY-CHECK...?
BOSS, SHOW SOME MER-MER-ME-AUGH!
CLICK
PLEASE. RIGHT NOW, I DON'T HAVE MONEY. I DON'T EVEN HAVE 10 CENTS.. SO THE MONEY TO GET BACK TO TOKYO ..
I'M NOT LYING' I'M SERIOUS!
I'M NOT PLAYING HOOKY! MY MOM REALLY DID DIE ALL OF A SUDDEN AND THEN. . HUH?
HUH?
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
...
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
SCRATCH

...AND I FINALLY STARTED DRAWING AGAIN, TOO.
FLOP
flutter

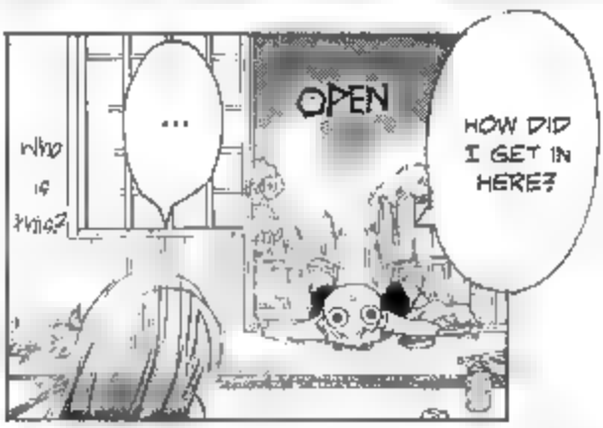

What is it I'm doing here...
THE TWO OF US VOW TO KEEP THIS SECRET FOREVER. IF WE EVER HAPPEN TO BREAK THIS OATH, MAY WE BE STRUCK DEAD IN OUR TRACKS.
TARO HARU

rip
If I just return to Tokyo, then...
That's right. This village has nothing to do with me anymore.
THIS SCRAP OF PAPER...
WHAT IS IT I'M DOING WITH THIS KID?
Should I just toss it?

WAHH! HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE?
WHAT MAKES A GIRL HAPPY?
WHY ARE YOU HALF-NAKED?

HE'S REALLY JUST A BRAT. . SO CAREFREE ABOUT THIS KIND OF STUFF!!
YOU KNOW, WE...

YOU'RE A WITCH, YOU CAN TEACH ME A TECHNIQUE, RIGHT?
'CAUSE I LOVE HER...
...THIS MUCH!
AND I WANT TO SHOW HER HOW I FEEL.
SEX-CRAZED LITTLE BRAT. .


...
OPEN
HOW DID I GET IN HERE?

SINCE SUMMER VACATION IS ABOUT TO START, YOU SHOULD GET A SUNTAN.
HEY, HARU, COME OVER HERE INTO THE SUN.
SHIVER
SHIVER

SUPER BROKEN DOWN
MMM, THIS IS GOING TO BE PERFECT!
IT'S OLD BUT STILL GOOD! I'LL TAKE IT!
DON'T GO AROUND LOOKING THROUGH MY SHIT. WILL YOU PLEASE START LISTENING TO ME?!
WOW! I FOUND A RADIO!
WE ARE WITNESSES TO A MURD-
TWITCH
How annoying.
DON'T YOU KNOW SOMETHING? YOU'RE A WITCH, ALL— WHAT MAKES A GIRL HAPPY?
HEY...
Huh? Money?
MONEY.
TARO. . AND HARU.
ARGH!
GRR

smiles
WE'RE HERE!
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
A GIFT. IT'S FROM THE HARBOR.
HERE, HARU.
Taro why are you barefoot?
THIS IS FROM MY NEIGHBOR'S FARM.
Yum Yum
OK.
THE PLACE'S SMALL, BUT COME ON IN.
ALRIGHTY
WHY DON'T WE SIT, EVEN THOUGH IT'S DIRTY.
...when did my house become ...

WHAT?!
BUSY
PLEASE DON'T JUST SHOW UP UNANNOUNCED TO HANG AROUND!
But I want to sprawl out on the floor in my underwear
That's why I'm telling you...
YEAH. PLEASE FORGIVE US FOR NOT BRINGING OUT TEA. SHE'S POOR.
DO WE ALWAYS HAVE TO REMIND YOU THAT THIS IS THE OLD WITCH LADY'S HOUSE.
Yeah, this place is really dirty
ha ha ha
222 222
And the electricity's gone out too.
THAT'S RIGHT! HARU'S HOMELESS!
WE'RE SO JEALOUS OF YOU, HARU!
RE-REALLY?!
AND MY HOUSE IS IN THE RIVER DISTRICT. IT'S THE WORST!
WOULD BE NICE TO HAVE MY OWN ROOM.
I WISH I HAD THAT! I'D LIKE MY OWN FREEDOM.
That's so awesome!
YEAH! THIS PLACE IS HOMELESS HARU'S SECRET HIDEOUT!
SALUTE
HEH HEH, BUT IT'S ALL GOOD.
and my house became the gathering place for all these fucking kids.
For some strange reason, Taro blabbered all about me,

1000
日本銀行券
千円
EVERY-
BODY!
LOOK
HERE!
TA-DA
THIS IS NOT JUST ANY ORDI-NARY 1000 YEN BILL.
FUFU
WOW, I'D LIKE TO HAVE THAT.
I'M A LITTLE JEALOUS, BUT IT'S NOT SOME-THING TO BE REALLY JEALOUS ABOUT. NOT AT ALL.
HMPH! ISN'T IT JUST A 1000 YEN BILL?
What is it? What is it?!

DID YA WANT TO REJOICE AT THE THOUGHT OF YER AUNT FALLIN' SICK FROM WORRYING ABOUT YA AND HAD TO GO TA THE HOSPITAL?
TARO! WHAT HAVE YA BEEN UP TO?! SNEAKIN' BACK HOME AFTER BEIN' OUT ALL NIGHT TOMCATTIN' AROUND!
AUNTIE THAT THOUGH T DIDN'T CROSS MY MIND'
YOU WANT TA REPAY YOUR AUNT- AFTER AH AC- CEPTED YOUR PARENTS' RE- QUEST TO TAKE CARE OF YA- WITH THIS KIND OF BETRAYAL?
FORMAL SITTING POSITION
CASCADING TEARS
Ah'm sorry Taro
Me working hard
PUNISH- MENT
After that I've worked hard.
Me getting the reward
¥1000
HAPPY
Now that you done with the paintin', here's the reward money.
Me taking revenge for tattling
Big brother's
DONE
TOIL- ING

That's right! This 1000 yen bill represents the fruits of my labor, and the proof of my aunt's loving care.
Oh, yeah...
THAT IS SO STUPID!
I wonder why Taro was left here with his Aunt.
DO ANY OF YOU KNOW THE MAGNIFICENCE OF FEELING THE SWEAT OF HARD WORK?!
AND ALL THAT HARD WORK WAS ACTUALLY REFRESHING!
DAZED
THAT FLOWING SWEAT FEELS SO GOOD!
All right already-Just put on some fucking clothes!
SHUT UP! I'M NOT RICH AT ALL!
THAT'S WHAT'S WRONG WITH RICH CITY SLICKERS.
THERE YOU GO AGAIN ABOUT YOUR AUNT.
WHICH IS WHY I SAID THIS ISN'T JUST MONEY. MY AUNT...
Money and stuff will spoil the innocence of our youth.

FIRST OFF, WHAT IS WITH YOUR STRONG LOCAL ACCENT?
That's right!
YOUR ACCENT IS ALWAYS EVEN STRONGER THAN EVEN US LOCAL BOYS.
POINT
Ahhh... I see. That's why he's so pale.
Some thing to do with the parents jobs.
TARO ONLY STAYS WITH US DURING THE SUMMER.
I...
...recalled the memories of myself when I was unaccustomed to a new place...
...and the dizzy feeling when I try to adapt...
...but become more ashamed.
EVEN HANA WAS TRYING TO FIGURE OUT A WAY TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT TARO'S ACCENT A LITTLE!
YEAH. THAT'S RIGHT.
WHAT... NO WAY. YA'LL THE STRANGE BUNCH.
YA MEAN THAT IF WE TALK LIKE THAT WE AIN'T GONNA BE POPULAR WITH THE GIRLS?
'CAUSE WE'RE MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS ALREADY.
YES, YES.
ACTUALLY, WE TRY NOT TO SPEAK LIKE THAT.
At the same time...
...I could not help but be a little jealous of...
...Taro's extreme optimism.
ANYWAYS, HOW ABOUT WE GO FISH N'?
I HEARD ABOUT A GOOD PLACE FROM OLD MAN GENZOU EARLIER.

YOU'RE ALREADY IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.
YOU STILL HANG OUT WITH OLD MAN GENZOU?
HE TAUGHT US TO FISH AND STUFF.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYIN'?!
NONE OF US EVER HANG OUT WITH HIM ANYMORE.
OUR PARENTS TOLD US TO NEVER TALK WITH HIM.
Old Man GenZou— how nostalgic.
He's lived alone in that area for as long as anyone can remember and has been a popular diversion for all the kids who slacked at school.
In the modern sense, Old Man GenZou could be called a homeless guy.
But he actually lives in a small little shanty by the sea, so that description is a bit off.
However, he was an aimless man who only took interest in children.
My weirdness-magnet of a mother caught his attention, and he became very affectionate with me.

Of course, I learned to fish from him, too.

And on the nights when mom returned late, he would sleep beside me.

Of course, when I got older, I was likewise ignored by the people of the town.

I didn't know why, but I was embarrassed to be seen by others when we were together.

No ... it'd be better to say that I shunned and avoided them.

And it was the same when my mother was around.

Now that I think about it, when I looked at my mom, I too was ashamed.

TARO, YOU'VE BEEN REALLY BAD ABOUT HANGING OUT WITH US LATELY.

YEAH, YOU HAVEN'T BEEN COMING OUT TO PLAY AND YOU HAVEN'T GONE TO THE BEACH, YET.

YEAH, THAT'S WHY YOU'RE SO PASTY WHITE.

Yeah.

YEAH!
YOU CONFESSED TO HER! YOU HAVE TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY, 'CAUSE YOU'RE A MAN.
ON TOP OF THAT, YOU'RE NOT PAYING ATTENTION TO HANA AND MAKING HER FEEL LONELY.
Those boys are really tactless with their criticism.
And it looks like Taro's very much affected by them.
BY THE WAY, HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN BEING OUT ALL NIGHT?
HUH?
HARU AND I WENT FISHING! IN THE OCEAN!
YEEZ
HOW TYPICAL OF YOU TO GO WITH THE STRANGE HOMELESS GIRL LIVING IN THAT HOUSE.
A GIRL, A GIRL.
What a discriminating thing to say.
ARF
The ocean...
THAT WAS BECAUSE HARU AND...

Cultural note. In Japan, having an outtie belly button is considered abnormal. So this is apparently an insult.

WHY DON'T I MAKE SOME BARLEY TEA FOR WHEN THESE KIDS FINISH THEIR LITTLE SPAT.
Huh, what...
WHAT?! WHAT IS IT?!
AHHHH! HARU!
No. No. No. I am an adult.
SHAKE
SHAKE
These are three for 500 yen.
COULDN'T YOU CLEAN UP THE ROOM A LITTLE BIT AND SPARE US THE DIRT-NESS?
YOU CAN'T SCATTER YOUR DIRTY LAUNDRY ALL OVER THE ROOM.
That was yesterday. From when I took a yarn.
I AM GOING TO TEAR Y'ALL TO PIECES FOR THIS..
EVEN IF YOU'RE GUESTS
AND I'M A GIRL.
blush
IT'S GREAT TO BE ABLE TO GET DIRTY AND NOT CARE!
WHEN MY LITTLE BROTHER GOT ALL DIRTY, THEY BLAMED ME!
AREN'T YOU LUCKY?! A ROOM THIS DIRTY WOULD MAKE MY PARENTS REALLY ANGRY!♡

#*£@
£%$
#%!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH !!
Later, Bae!
#*£
@*£
%*£
COMING AND GOING INTO MY HOUSE...
Tomorrow then...
Phew... well, then...
...that's done and over with...
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
Ugh
PANTING

WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH TARO?
Why do you say that?
YOU DO KNOW HE DOESN'T LIVE HERE, RIGHT?
Is Taro here?
fraget

umm...
...SORRY FOR DISTURBING YOU. BYE!
bow

A-AND I WAS WONDERING IF YOU HAD ANY OBJECTIONS.
BUT I CAME TO SAY THAT TARO ASKED ME TO GO OUT WITH HIM.
I DON'T WANT YOU TO MISUNDERSTAND THIS.
I DIDN'T HEAR ABOUT THIS!
STARES

HUH?
WHAT?
... in three years!
I'll beat you...
DASH
... love is true...
Because my...
pla
tonic
What the hell was that?
KIDS ARE REALLY A PAIN IN THE ASS.
SCRATCH
SCRATCH

...
I FORGOT TO STOP TANNING.
CRAP.
HA.
CRUEL
SEA SLUGS ARE REALLY DELICIOUS.
SHOULD I GO HOME?

POI
IT'S RARE IN THE BIG CITIES, RIGHT?
YEAH. IT'S SOMETHING MY DAD ONLY EATS WHEN HE'S DRUNK.
ONLY ADULTS EAT SEA SLUGS. IT'S DISGUST-NG.
IT'S SAID THAT THE ONLY GIRL WHO'D BE INTER-ESTED IN YOU IS HARU.
YEAH.
THAT WAY YOU CAN GET A LITTLE BIT MORE TANNED.
YOU'VE MADE THE TRIP ALL THE WAY HERE, BUT IT'S BEEN SO BOR NG.
HEY, I'M SORRY FOR WHAT HAPPENED AT HARU'S HOUSE. WHY DON'T WE GO TO THE BEACH?
YOU'RE TAKIN' THAT BACK.
SFX: wah

YOU WANT ME TO TALK TO TARO FOR YOU?
TARO NEVER APOLOGIZES, DOES HE?
HEY, HOW HAS TARO BEEN LATELY?
We were engaged a long time ago
That's not like Taro at all
They're fighting again.
Boys sure have a lot of free time
WHAT DO YOU THINK HE'S DOING RIGHT NOW, ALL ALONE ON THE ROOF OF THE SCHOOL?
HE STAYED OUT ALL NIGHT WITH THAT WOMAN HARU.
TARO'S BEEN REALLY STRANGE RECENTLY.
BOYS. .
HUH?
DAMN IT, WE'RE GOING TO KEEP UP THE PETER PAN SPIRIT!
GASP
Right Right For life!
Yeahhh
He stayed out all night?
...
Hana
SO HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO'S GROWN UP INTO AN ADULT THIS SUMMER!
HE'S LISTENING TO THE RADIO. YOU KNOW, THOSE RAP SONGS THAT ALL THE ADULTS LISTEN TO!
DAMN! HE'S DIFFERENT FROM US LITTLE KIDS NOW.

...but my only desire is for us to go out...
Ahhh, God please save him from his sinful road for I am the only one who can give him what he desires...
SHIVER
SHIVER

DAZE
..T WOULD IF WE COULD MAKE UP.
..FIST TO FIST.
BOYS.

THE SUMMER OF EIGHTH GRADE...
...WILL BE OVER BEFORE WE KNOW IT...

HARU!
HA HA HA! HARU'S SCARED!
HEY, DON'T GO INTO THE DEEP END!
OVER HERE, OVER HERE.
DON'T BE STUPID! EVERYONE SHOULD STAY TO-GETHER.
THAT ISLAND
HARU!

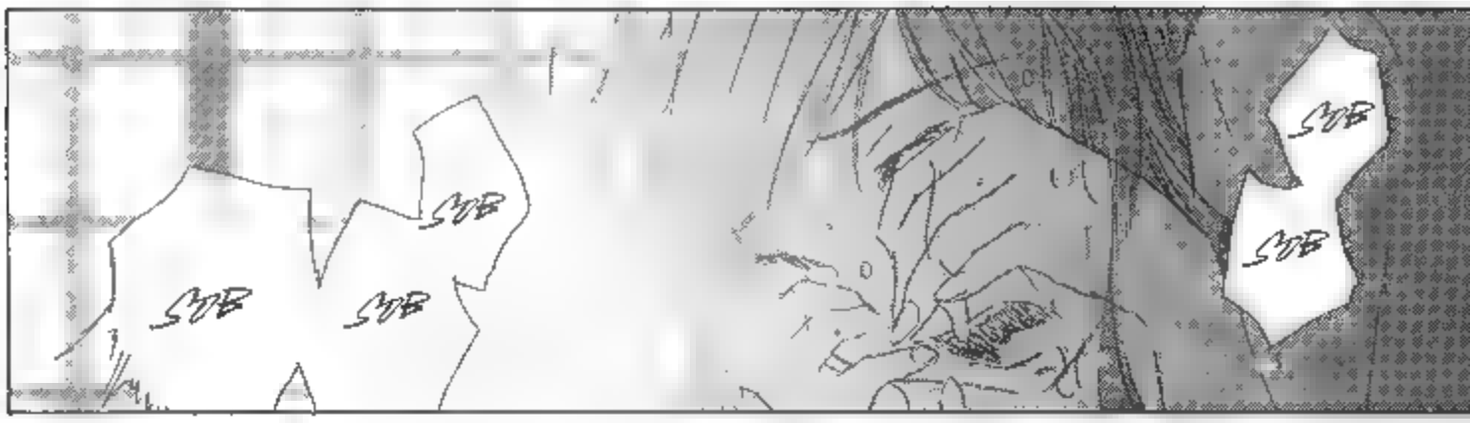
HEY.
WHY DON'T WE GO TO THAT ISLAND!
LET'S GO.

THAT'S A DESERTED ISLAND.
AHH ..

NO WAY.
THAT PLACE IS HAUNTED.
A LONG TIME AGO..

SOME
OUTSIDER

Why?!



Why do I always...

... suffer through that same nightmare every single night?

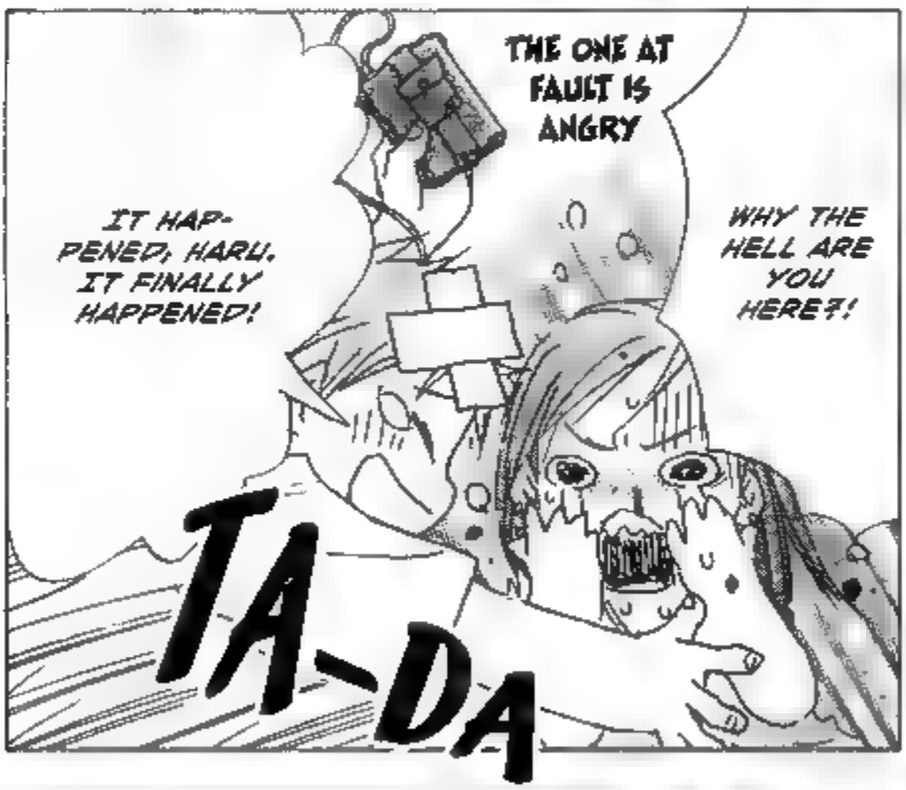
Why am I here...

... all by myself?

I want to go home.

Why am I being so stupid?

BANG
THUNK
FINALLY...


THE ONE AT FAULT IS ANGRY
IT HAP-PENED, HARU. IT FINALLY HAPPENED!
WHY THE HELL ARE YOU HERE?!
TA-DA

WOW
WOW
WOW

HUH?
Hey, where on her head was she hit?
THE CRIMINAL FROM THAT MURDER.

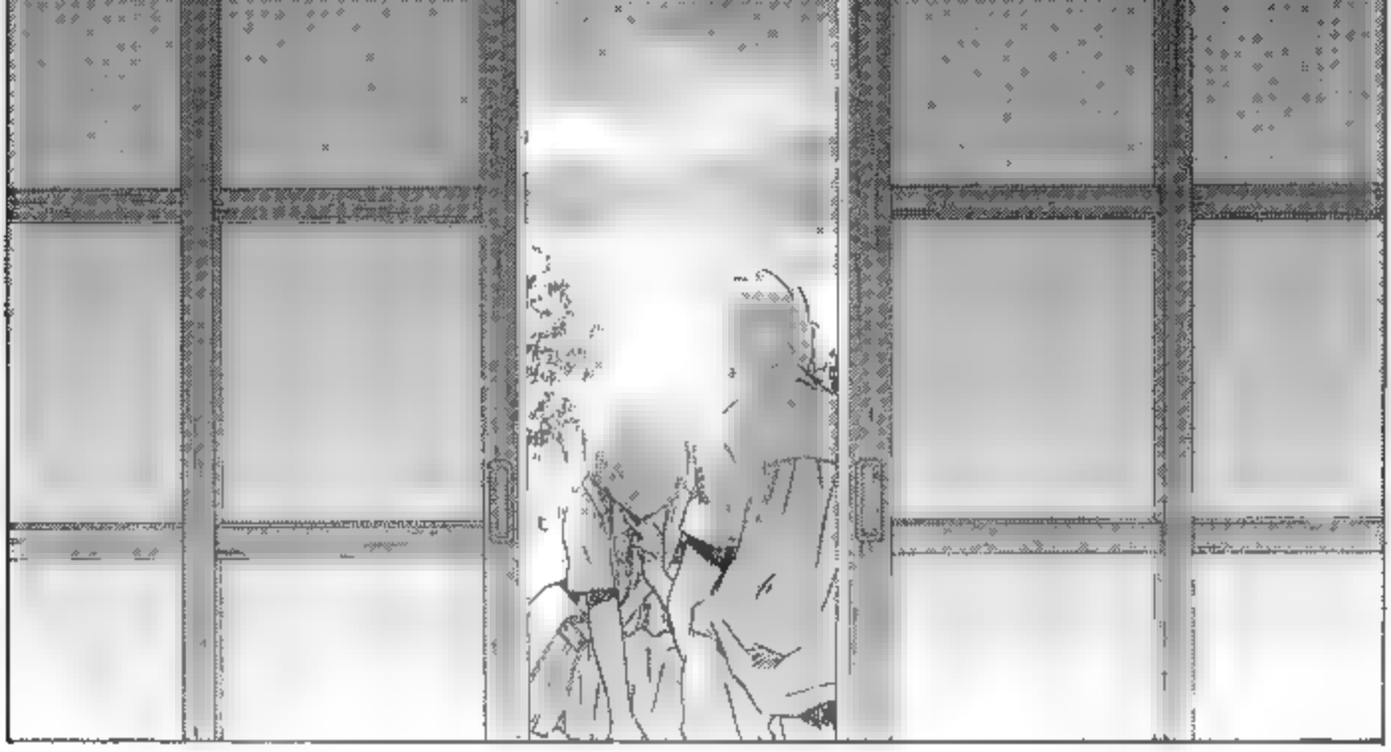
Arrrrr!

Tears flowed out of the young boys eyes...
Was it because his head was hit so hard?
Or was it because he was deeply, deeply burdened by the fear from witnessing the murder?
Is his terror just like mine? ...Or is it...
... something much, much more?

That caused the quarrel with his friends for not being able to go to the beach...
...and not being able to get along with that cute girl
Beneath that mask of optimism...
...was that boy hiding something...
...that happened during a boy's few summers?

THE TWO OF US VOW TO KEEP THIS MATTER SECRET. IF WE EVER HAPPEN TO BREAK THIS OATH, MAY WE BE STRUCK DEAD IN OUR TRACKS.
TARO HARU
IS THIS REAL BEER?
WOW!
At the same time...
WELL, THEN, THIS CEREMONY WILL MARK THE FULFILLMENT OF OUR PROMISE.
...it became an all-important part of his life with all the suffering it caused
COOL!
What I know is that this boy...
IT'S BARLEY TEA FOR ADULTS.
...was suffering from the promise he made with me...

Frankly, I was secretly...
...very, very happy.
UMM, EXCUSE ME!
IS TARO THERE?

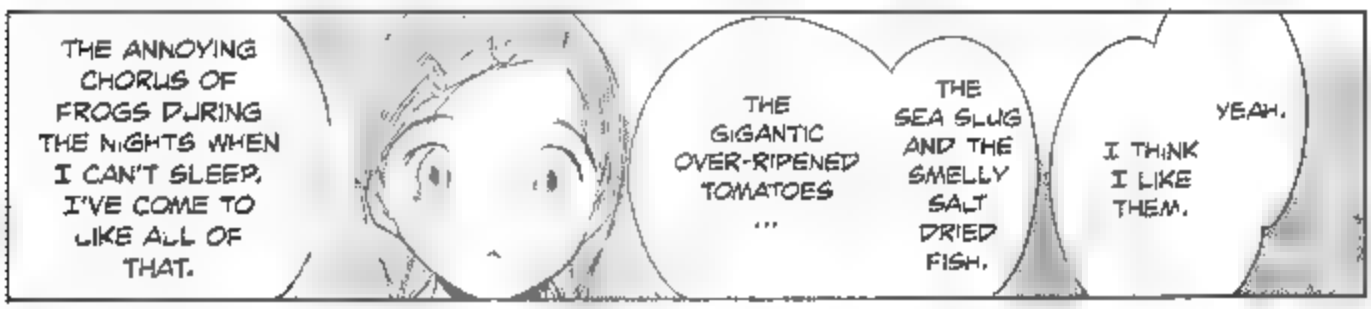


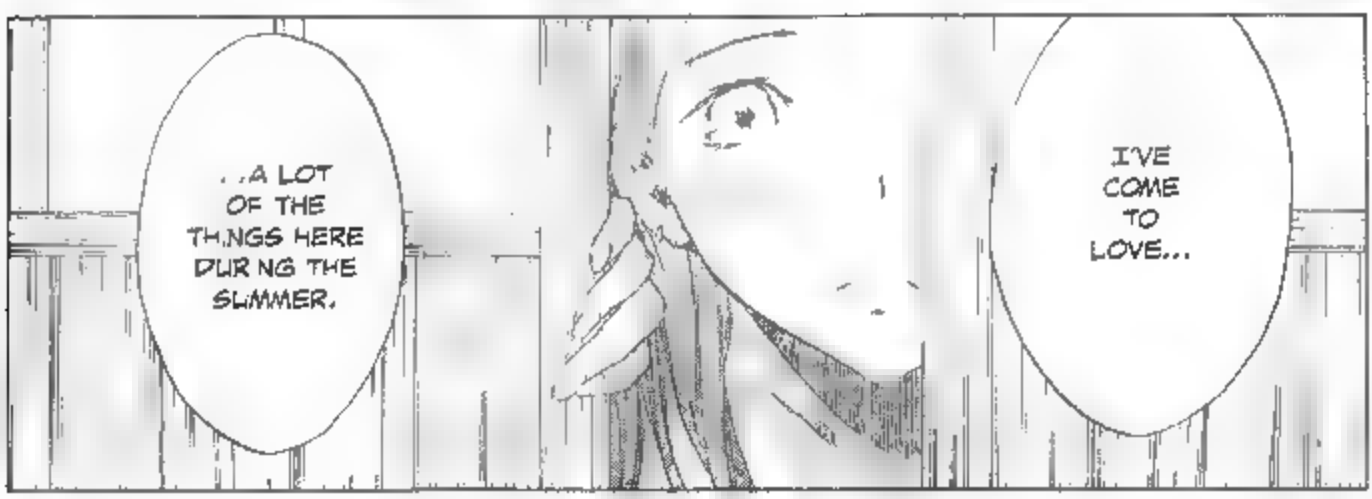
... turned red in a flash.

... who hadn't drunk a drop of alcohol...

The ears the boy...

I USED TO HATE THEM, A LONG TIME AGO.
BUT, NOW...
I HATE THEM!
EH,
WHAT?
Wh-wh-
What are you talking about?! Not again!


THE ANNOYING CHORUS OF FROGS DURING THE NIGHTS WHEN I CAN'T SLEEP, I'VE COME TO LIKE ALL OF THAT.
THE GIGANTIC OVER-RIPENED TOMATOES ...
THE SEA SLUG AND THE SMELLY SALT DRIED FISH.
YEAH. I THINK I LIKE THEM.


...A LOT OF THE THINGS HERE DURING THE SUMMER.
I'VE COME TO LOVE...

PLEASE MAKE UP WITH ME.
SO THIS IS SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO ME.

1000
千円
HOLD OUT

thump
thump
Well...
Well...
thump
thump
Well...
WIDE-EYED
WELLING UP
What are you doing?!

WAHHHHHHHHH
WHAT IS THIS?! DO YOU THINK I'M STUPID?!
slap
YOU'RE THE WORST!
flipp
SILENCE
PFFT
WHY?!
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
YOU'RE K-K-K-K-K-K-K-K-K-K-K-K... K-KILLING ME!
WHYYYYYYY
You told me to do that!
I'M GOING TO KILL YOU!
eeeek!

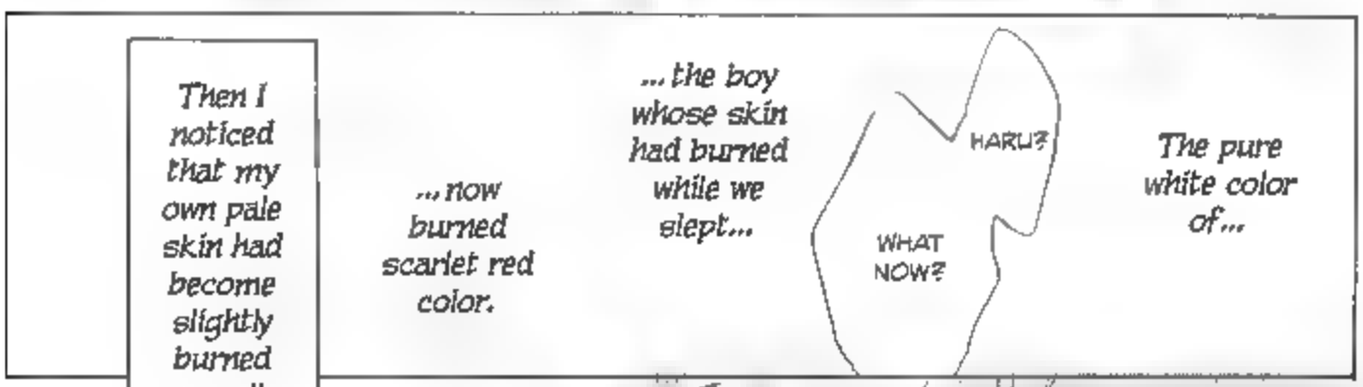
I know...

...the meaning of that 1000 yen bill.

I know...

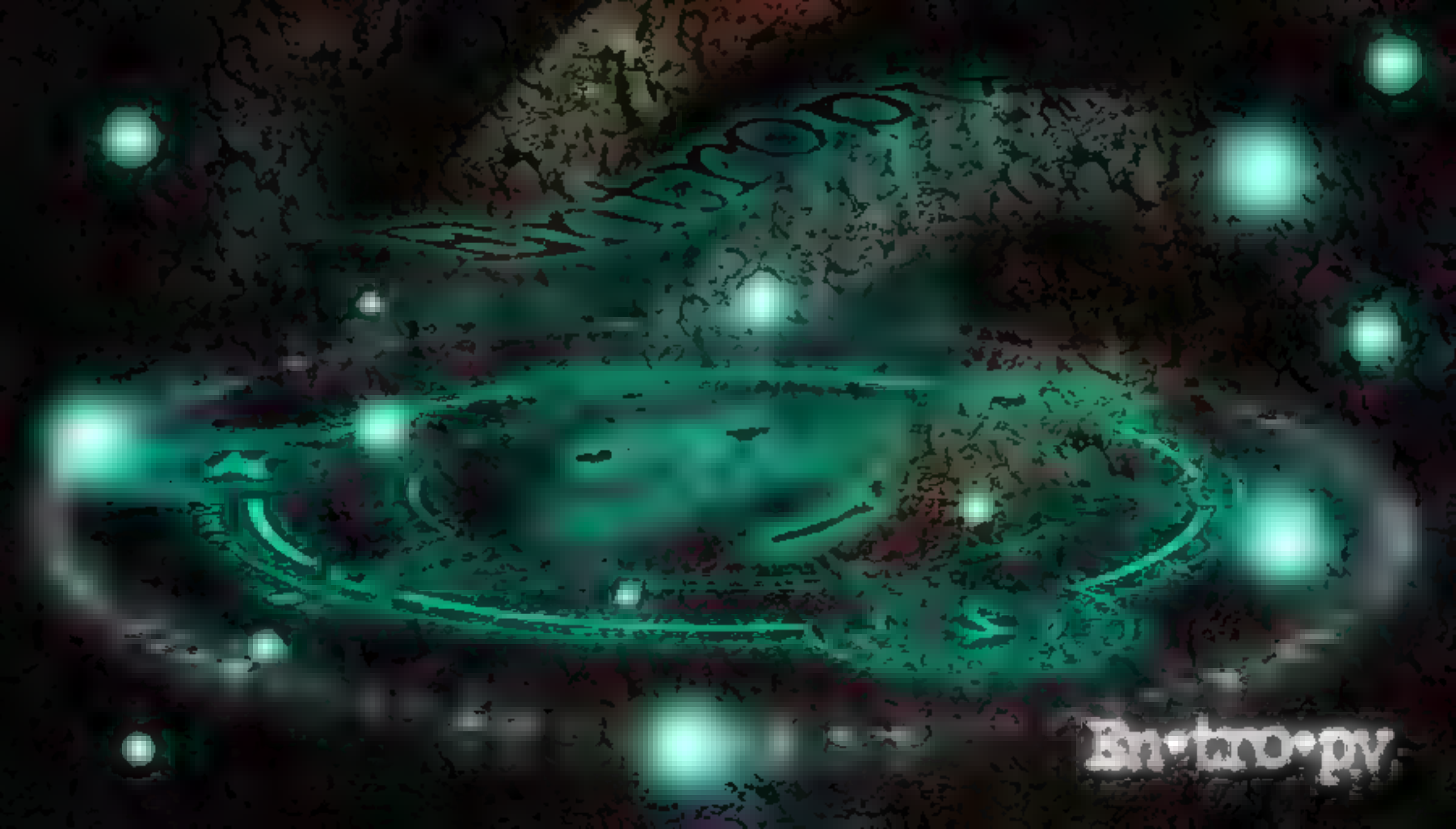
Its importance and its preciousness ...

IT'S WRONG!
IT WAS ODAGIRI WHO KILLED THE MAN!
IT'S WRONG! THE CRIMINAL ISN'T OLD MAN GENZO!
WHAT IS IT?
WHAT?!
HUH?
THE NEWS JUST NOW ..


Then I noticed that my own pale skin had become slightly burned as well.
... now burned scarlet red color.
... the boy whose skin had burned while we slept...
HARU?
WHAT NOW?
The pure white color of...

WH—
During that summer, our skin seemed to match in color.
WHAT NOW?

... the gentle rays of the sun, it felt slightly feverish...
And when our skin was touched by...
We knew something that nobody else in this world knew, something that we couldn't let anyone else in this world know.
A FALSE ACCSATION. .
Gulp
... It was extremely painful.
Tom Sawyer
CHAPTER TWO
FIN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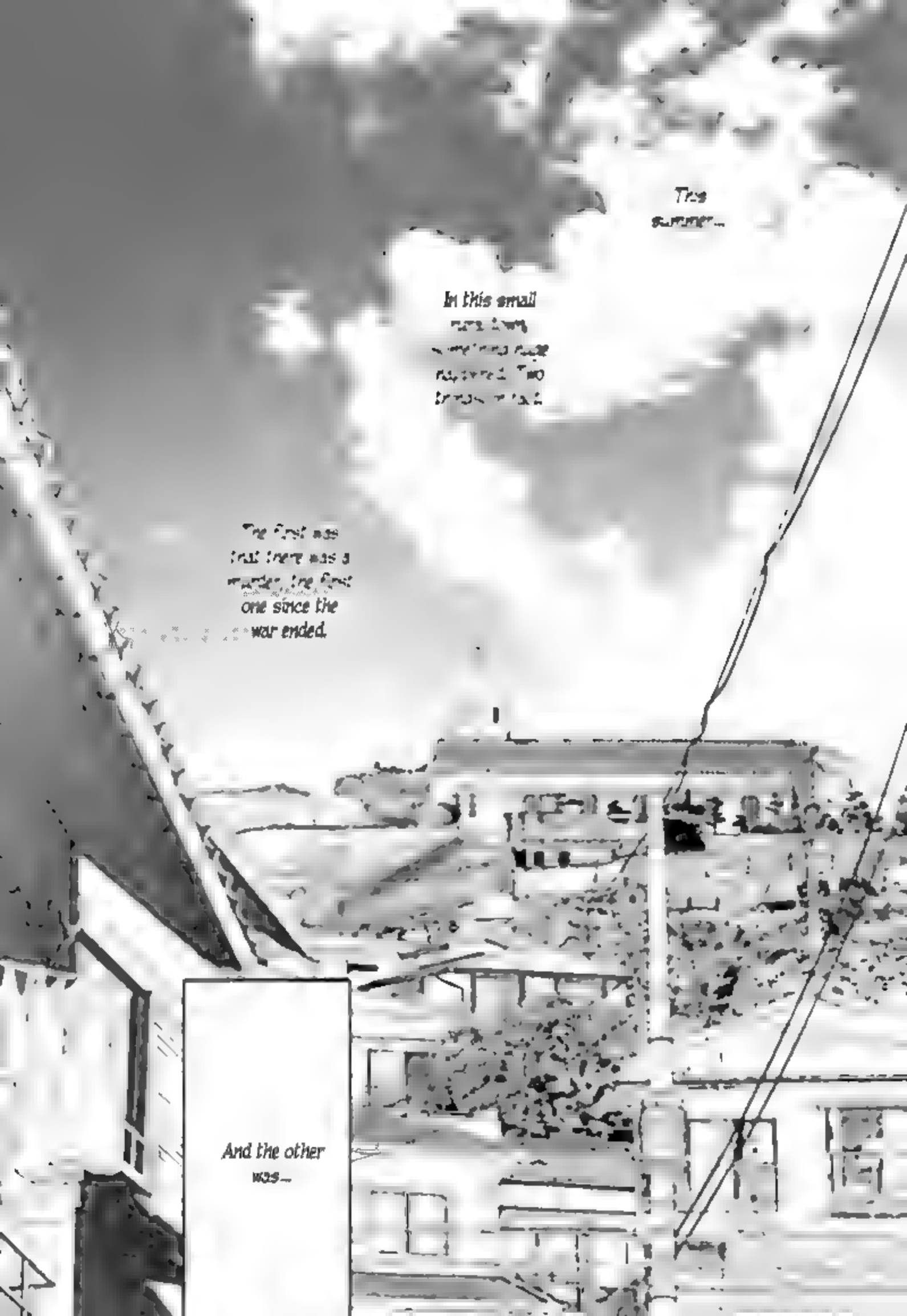

This summer...
In this small
The first was
one since the
war ended.
And the other
was...

EVERYONE, LET US ALL PRAY...
,FOR THE SAFETY OF THOSE CHILDREN.
AMEN.

HAVE YOU CHECKED THE EASTERN MOUNTAINS?
I CAN'T FIND THEM!
WHAT ABOUT THE SEASIDE?

IF WE CAN'T FIND THEM, EVEN AFTER ALL THIS...
MAYBE WE HAVE TO CALL THE POLICE ...
BUT WE JUST HAD THAT OTHER ACCIDENT NOT TOO LONG AGO, AND NOW THIS ...
THE WAVES AROUND THE ISLANDS ARE ESPECIALLY ROUGH AROUND THIS TIME OF YEAR. IT'S WAY TOO DANGEROUS FOR THOSE CHILDREN TO BE OUT.
BUT THOSE THREE ARE PRETTY GOOD SWIMMERS...
W-WE HAVE BAD NEWS!!!

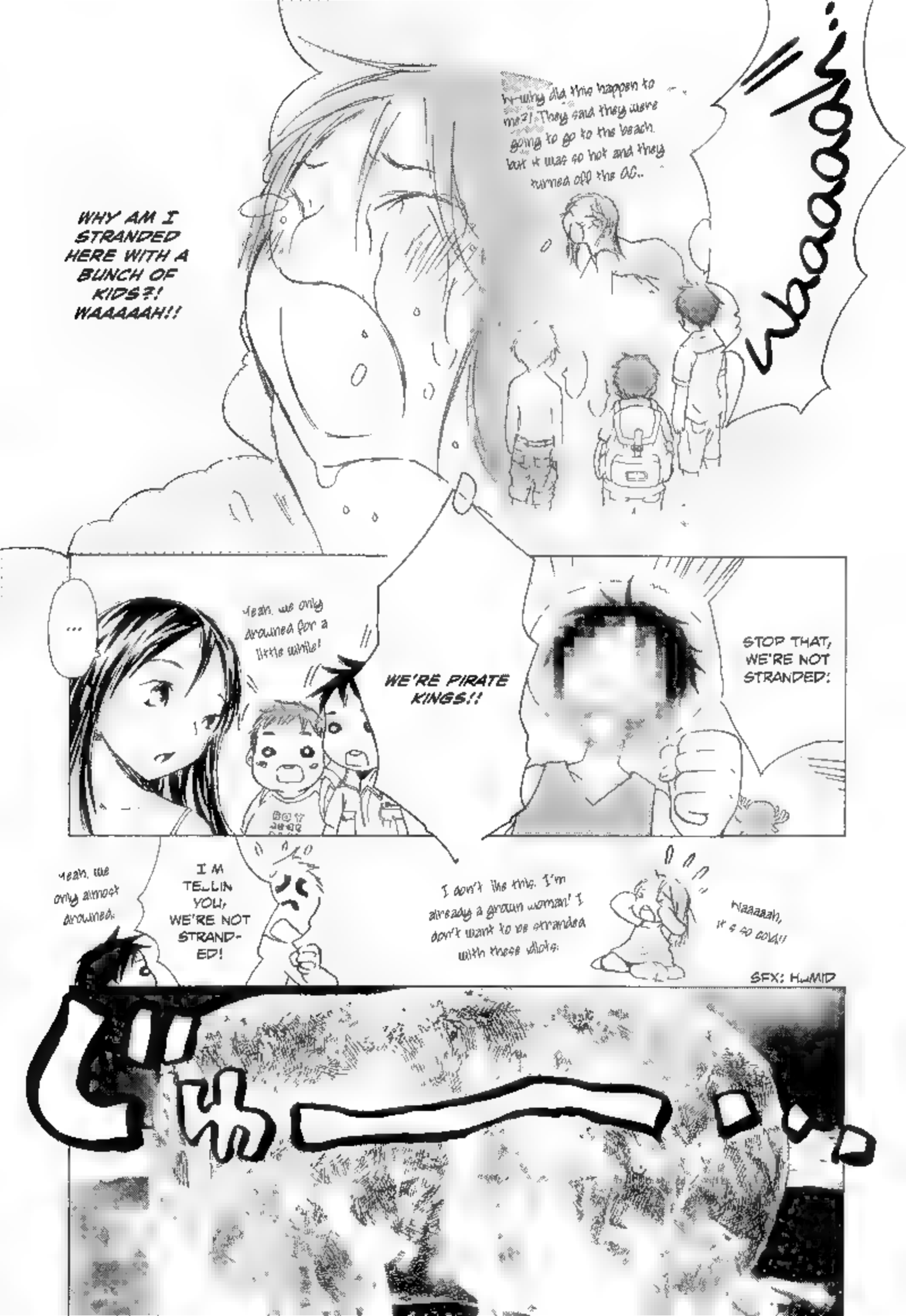
shiver
shiver
shiver
shiver
THEN ... THEY...
AHH! THESE ARE DEFINITELY ...
TAKUYA'S BRIEFS!!
TAKUYA
THIS IS AWFUL!
WE FOUND A RIPPED RUBBER BOAT A-AND A BACKPACK ON THE SHORE.
THIS WAS INSIDE IT! HERE!!
SFX: TREMBLE
M-MA'AM, PLEASE, STAY CALM!
WE DON'T KNOW IF THEY'VE BEEN STRANDED SOMEWHERE FOR SURE YET.
That a boy son's underwear
I WUZ SO HARD ON YA...
OHHHHHH! TARO... IT'S BECAUSE AH'VE...
Squeeze
MA'AM, PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER!!
OHHH, GOD... FORGIVE ME, TARO! FORGIVE YOUR TERRIBLE AUNT!!!

★SHIN PRESENTS!★
TOM
★SAWYER★
トムソーヤ
第三章
—前編—
BASED ON THE NOVEL "THE ADVENTURES OF TOM SAWYER"
★FINAL FANTASY★

Splash
Splash
Splash
SFX: JUMP
OW!!!
UH...
AHH!
WE RE HERE...
IT'S A DESERTED ISLAND...

WE'RE FREE!!

SFX: YEAAAAAH !!
うみべのおと
PHEW, I THOUGHT WE WERE GONERS BACK THERE WHEN OUR BOAT RAN OUT OF AIR, BUT WE'RE SAFE!
HMPH... IT'S ALL THANKS TO THE GREAT CAPTAIN TARO.
...
WELL, WE CAN SWIM TO THIS ISLAND FROM OUR TOWN, ANYWAY.
NO, THE CAPTAIN IS!!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! THE NAVIGATOR IS THE MOST IMPORTANT!
かるか!
HARU
SNIFFLE
SNIFFLE
STUPID, WE SHOULD EXPLORE FIRST.
UHH, LET'S EAT FIRST.
SO! LET'S DECLARE OUR PIRATE OATHS NOW!!


WHY AM I STRANDED HERE WITH A BUNCH OF KIDS?! WAAAAAH!!
Why did this happen to me?! They said they were going to go to the beach, but it was so hot and they turned off the AC..
Waaaaah!
...
Yeah, we only drowned for a little while!
WE'RE PIRATE KINGS!!
STOP THAT, WE'RE NOT STRANDED!
Yeah, we only almost drowned.
I'M TELLIN YOU, WE'RE NOT STRAND-ED!
I don't like this. I'm already a grown woman! I don't want to be stranded with these idiots.
Waaaaah, it's so cold!!
SFX: HuMID

I-I've never had such ... fine meat...
OF COURSE
LOOK AT THE FAT ON IT! SAGA BEEF HAS SOME OF THE HIGHEST CLASS BEEF IN THE COUNTRY.
YOU'VE OUTDONE YOURSELF THIS TIME, NINJA
OUR STORE, SAGA BEEF

T-THE FAMOUS "LEGENDARY SHOCHU, MORI IZOU," 1.8 LITERS OF IT!
I-IT'S MY FATHER'S LIFE!!
Are you all right? You're so pale! You're shaking.
AWESOME! IF HE FINDS OUT, HE'S GONNA PUMMEL YOU SO HARD!
NO WAY. HEY, YOU SHOULD JUST GIVE IT BACK.
hehh hehh
You're totally tripping out
HARU!! SHUT UP, ALL YOU'VE BEEN DOING IS DISCOURAGING US!
Come on, let's go home while we're at it.
YOU'RE SO STUPID!
shiver shiver
WE'RE PIRATES NOW! WE'RE NEVER GOING BACK TO LAND! SO IT'S OK!
WHA-WHA-WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!
SFX: POINT
DON'T EAT ALL OF IT!!
grumble
HARU, STUPID, STOP IT!!!
THAT'S WHY I WAS AGAINST BRINGING HARU ALONG.
OH, REALLY.
NOW THEN, I GUESS IT'S CAPTAIN TARO'S TURN...

SFX BAM
AUNT S PRECIOUS HEALTH-FOOD COLLECTION! THIS HERE COSTS 500 DOLLARS!
WHOA!! WHAT IS THIS?!
健康酒
$500?! NO WAY!!
うおおおっ
SFX WHOOOOOA

SFX COUGH
SFX UGHHH

ぐおお おおお

A bitter-sweet and... sad story...
Yes. It's a long story, but...
I guess it's actually kind of short?
—A story about the ups and downs of young love..
THIS IS IMPORTANT TO ME!

SFX: SLAP
COCK-ROACH!
ARE YOU STUPID OR SOME-THING?!
YOU'RE TERRIBLE!!
GO DIE!
FANTASY
waaah!
SFX BUAHAHAHAHA!
AND THEN. .
Giggle
I can't believe that Taro...
Hana, it's all a-big mis-take...
I GUESS A CERTAIN SOMEONE THINKS BRAGGING MAKES HIM LOOK COOL.
Ah!
Pirate King, also known as my middle school self, was having a little bit of woman trouble...
TARO, WHAT'S WRONG?

IT'S JUST MY APPETITE ...
AH, NO, IT'S NOTHING, REALLY ...
HMMM...
YOU HAVEN'T EATEN AT ALL!
YA USUALLY GET SECONDS, RIGHT AWAY.
SFX: SMIRK
hal!
....PROBABLY SOME KIND OF DISEASE.
THAT'S ....
Oh, no!
REALLY...
DON'T YOU THINK IT MIGHT BE SOME SORT OF DISEASE?
AUNTIE! BIG BROTHER DOESN'T HAVE AN APPETITE!
I'm so worried.
Ahh.

SFX: SPLAASH
My aunt is a total health maniac! She would never miss a chance like this.
HMM? YOU'RE NOT FEELING WELL, TARO?
SFX: BURNING
She can't help but test out all the stuff that she got from those telemarketers, magazines, and TV ads.
When did she get behind me?
SFX: AHH
SFX: HOVER
It's like in chapter 6 of the Book of Revelations, when they say, "And I looked, and beheld a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him."
Finally, something terrible happened.
But I guess Auntie thinks of herself as some sort of "healing saint" or something.
SFX: OW OW. GROSS. STING

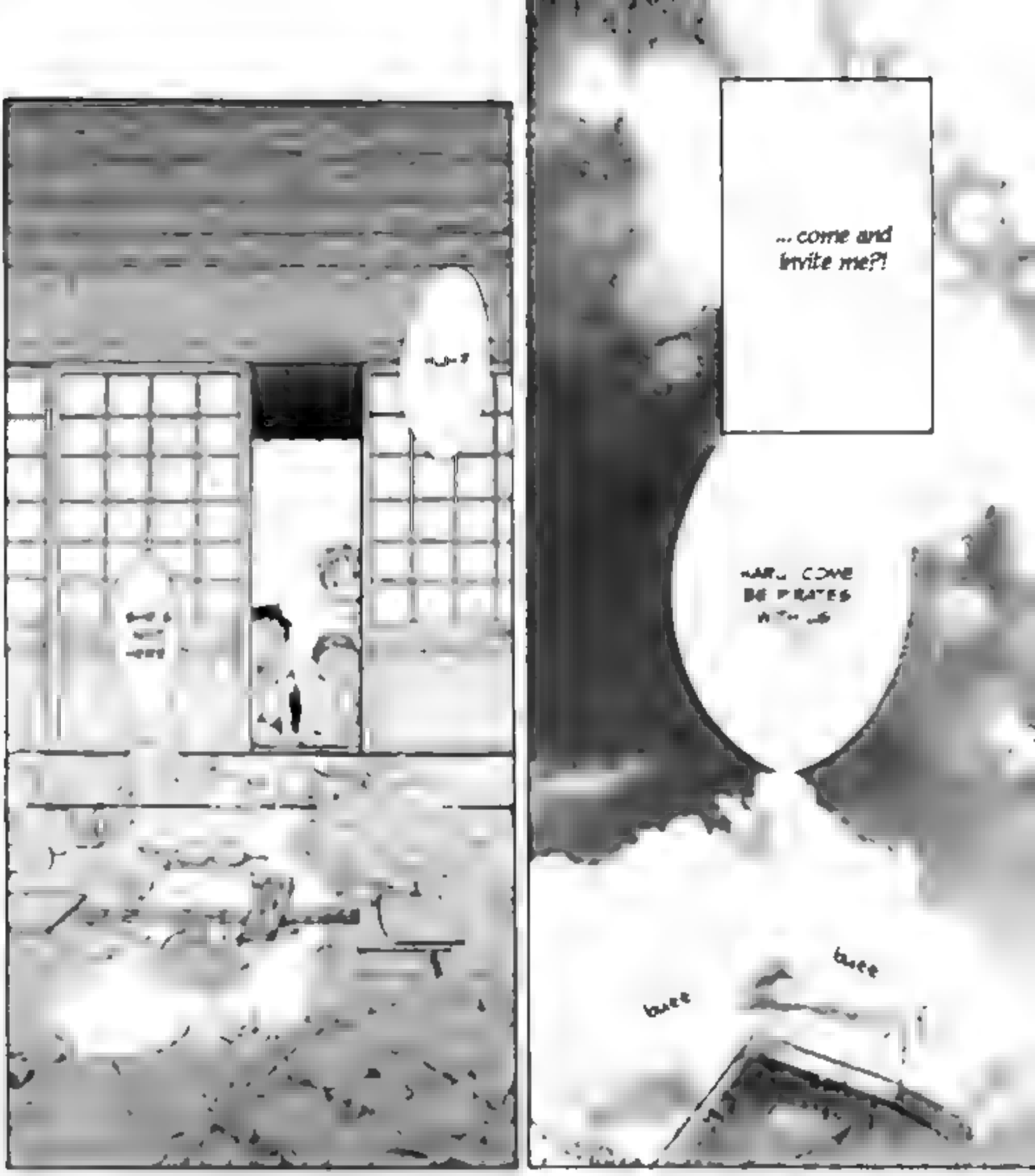
Gaack!
SFX GAHHHHH
She bought it on some suspicious online black market site. It was a medicine that couldn't be sold in Japan...
ぐぉぉぉぉ...
My stomach
My stomach
Auntie finally acquired the "ultimate weapon."
SFX TREMBLE
It burns the innards of every living thing, like the mystical powers of the Ohmu...
drip
Although it looked like a liquid, it turned into fire once it was inside my mouth.
NOTE: THE OHMU IS A REFERENCE TO NAUSICAA OF THE VALLEY OF THE WIND.
HOW IS IT, TARO? ARE YAH FEELIN' BETTER?
I got two woozum takin-man fer gain.
shake
shake
MONTA
...

Auntie doesn't know how much I have to think about her every day.

Yeah, those adults...
Adults... They never understand
Gehhh!
WAIT A SECOND! DON'T MAKE US DRINK IT!!
But I wanted others to share my pain...
Not just the cat
WHATEVER I M ALWAYS ALONE!
I M GONNA BE BAD FROM NOW ON'
YEAH, IT'S ALL BE-CAUSE OF AUNTIE
I'll start after I wake up tomorrow! I'm too sleepy right now!
YEAH! THIS IS THE SIGN OF OUR BROTHERLY PACT!
ALL RIGHT! THIS IS THE INITIATION RITUAL! NOW EVERYONE'S ONE OF US!
SFX: JWAAAHH!

jump
MINUS ONE.
I M NEVER GONNA COME BACK AGAIN, AUNTIE!
YEAH, I'D RATHER DIE THAN GO ON A DIET!
WE RE GONNA PUNISH THOSE ADULTS, WHO ALWAYS FAVOR OUR YOUNGER BROTHERS!
THE REASON WE'VE GONE BAD IS BECAUSE OF THE ADULTS!

SFX: WAHAHAHAH!, UGHHH
SFX RUMBLE
WOMEN!
MEAT
WOMEN!
ME-AT
I wanna go home...
But in the heat of the moment, why did they...
Although they talk big now, the real reason they're all here is because their family got mad at them, so they ran away from home...
I'M GONNA BE THE SEA DEMON JOE! I WANNA SEE SOME BLOOD!
AUNTIE! REGRET YOUR ACTIONS AFTER I BECOME THE AVENGER KING TARO OF THE CARIBBEAN!
Ugh!
I WANNA BE THE COOK
Guh!
BLOOD!
BLOOD!
Geh!

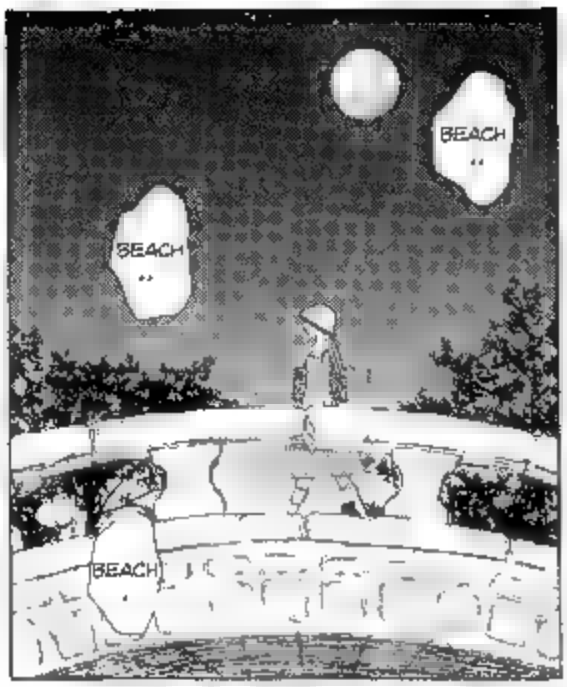

... come and invite me?!
buee
buee

AND SHE DOESN'T HAVE ANY OTHER FRIENDS, EITHER.
SHE SHOULDN'T HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO BUY FOOD OR MESS AROUND.

When I came back to this hateful town after Mom's funeral, I met the "white boy", Taro. For some odd reason, he took a liking to me.
And ever since then, these brats came over from time to time just to bother me.
He thought I was a witch.
Oh, come to think about it, why didn't I realize it earlier?
AH...
Haruuu, Haruuu, Homeless Haruuu!
THERE SHE IS.
I'm already an adult...

So hot
Hot
...an adult?
Is Haru really...
SFX: SPLAAASH
A BEACH ...
Back then ... why didn't I...
The sea " beyond...
We're gonna be ... pirates!
Hey, Haru, let's go to the ocean!
SFX: SPLAAASH
I want to go!

How could I not have realized?



That leaving to go to the ocean...

... in the middle of the night...

... was suspicious?

STAB THEM IF NECES-SARY.
HAVE NO MERCY, GUYS
WHERE'S THE BEACH?
SHH! STUPID!
THE ENEMY WILL FIND US
The formerly peaceful region ... was now a place of sorrow. He gave it one last look...
The Avenger King stood there, arms crossed, staring off into the dis-tance...
WHERE'S THE BEACH?
SFX SPLAAAASH
Where's the beach?!

SFX: NOOOO!!
Ever since I came to this town, why is it that I keep getting involved with bad stuff like this?
HARU.
AHHH! THE BOAT S LOSING AIR!
sniff
EVERY-ONE EVACUATE NOW
-RU.
HARU!!
SFX: SPLAAASH
HUH?
YOUR HAIR... IS IT ON FIRE?
T-this ...
NO ... WAY...
Do I smell something burning?
This sucks!!!
Ah!
Ah!
burn!

Under the stars, the pirates were much calmer
This was the first time
Ever since I returned to this town, I realized that...
...I had ever seen the stars.

tweet
tweet
WHOA!
WELL, AS A PIRATE, GIRLY HAIR LIKE THAT IS UNACCEPTABLE.
I AM A GIRL!!
HARU!! LET ME CUT YOUR HAIR, YOU LOOK STUPID LIKE THAT!
NO WAY!
I am cool

Ohhh it's the beach!
It's so cold.
It's awkward...
That's our drinking water
SFX SPLAAASH
splash
Splash
BE CARE-FUL!
WHOA, A SNAKE!
What will I get from wearing a pretty swimsuit for you guys to ogle?
IT'S REALLY HOT.
Hunh?
You sure?
I don't have anything else leave me alone
3-A
UHH, HARU, THAT...

A FOR-

IT'S SO DARK.
SOB
I'M SCARED...
SOB
SOB
IT'S SO DARK..
I WONDER WHAT THIS PLACE WAS USED FOR.
SHUT UP, NIKUYA! YOU'RE MAKING ME SCARED.
IT'S SO DARK
I'M SCARED
SOB
SOB

I CAN'T TRUST ANYTHING THAT COMES OUT OF THAT OLD GEEZER'S MOUTH! HE SAID THAT MY CAT WAS A DOG!
AHH! I-I M SCARED...
MY GRANDPA SAID THAT IT WAS USED TO HOUSE JAPANESE SOLDIERS ...
OH, WHAT S THIS?
YOU CAME IN HERE WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT IT WAS?
WH-WHAT?
THIS USED TO BE THE PLACE WHERE THEY KEPT PRISONERS OF WAR.
THEY USED TO BRING LOTS AND LOTS OF PEOPLE
IT WAS TERRIBLE
EVERY NIGHT, THEY USED TO DO HORRIBLE THINGS. TORTURE, HUMAN EXPERIMENTATION, THINGS THAT WOULD HAVE MADE THE GENEVA CONVENTION CRY...
M-HEY, THIS WALL ...
DOESN T IT LOOK LIKE A PERSON?
W-WELL, NOW THAT I LOOK AT IT ..
HUH?!
A MAN IN THE WALL? HAH. THEY RE SO STUPID. THERE S NO WAY
I m just kidding
SFX: HEH HEH

The bomb didn't even fall here!
B-BUT, NO WAY. IT'S TOO FAR AWAY...
I wonder why this place is off limits...
Oh, yeah. Nagasaki lies in that direction.
IT'S BRIGHT
SFX THUD, JUMP
A soiled island ...
Light...

SOMEONE HELP ME
NAGA WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
A hole in the wall?
SOMEONE'S PRESENCE?
AHHHHHHHH
あああ

SFX: SILENCE

Suddenly Homesick
ホームシック…
On the second day, the pirates began to feel lonely for obvious reasons.
But once I thought about it, that thought was pretty saddening on its own.
They held back their loneliness, also for obvious reasons. As for me, I was used to being alone, so I wasn't too sad.
Then...

WHAT?. WHAT'S GOING ON? THERE'S SOME KIND OF COMMOTION GOING ON IN TOWN!
THERE ARE A LOT OF SHIPS ... AND SIRENS ...
I CAN EVEN HEAR PATROL CARS!
WHOA, SCARY!!

THERE HAVE BEEN LOTS OF INCIDENTS IN TOWN RECENTLY.
WE JUST HAD THAT MURDER, TOO. RIGHT, TARO?
Y-
YEAH.

...

I WONDER WHO IT IS NOW?
NO WAY! I WISH I WERE THERE, TOO.
OH, YEAH. IT WAS LIKE THIS WHEN THAT KID ON TEAM B DROWNED! THERE WERE A LOT OF SHIPS THEN, TOO!
I KNOW! SOMEONE MUST HAVE DROWNED!
DARN!

IT'S US!!
SFX: YEEEAAAAAH
SFX: HUH?
SFX: HUH?
SFX: HUH?

ALL RIGHT!
DONE!

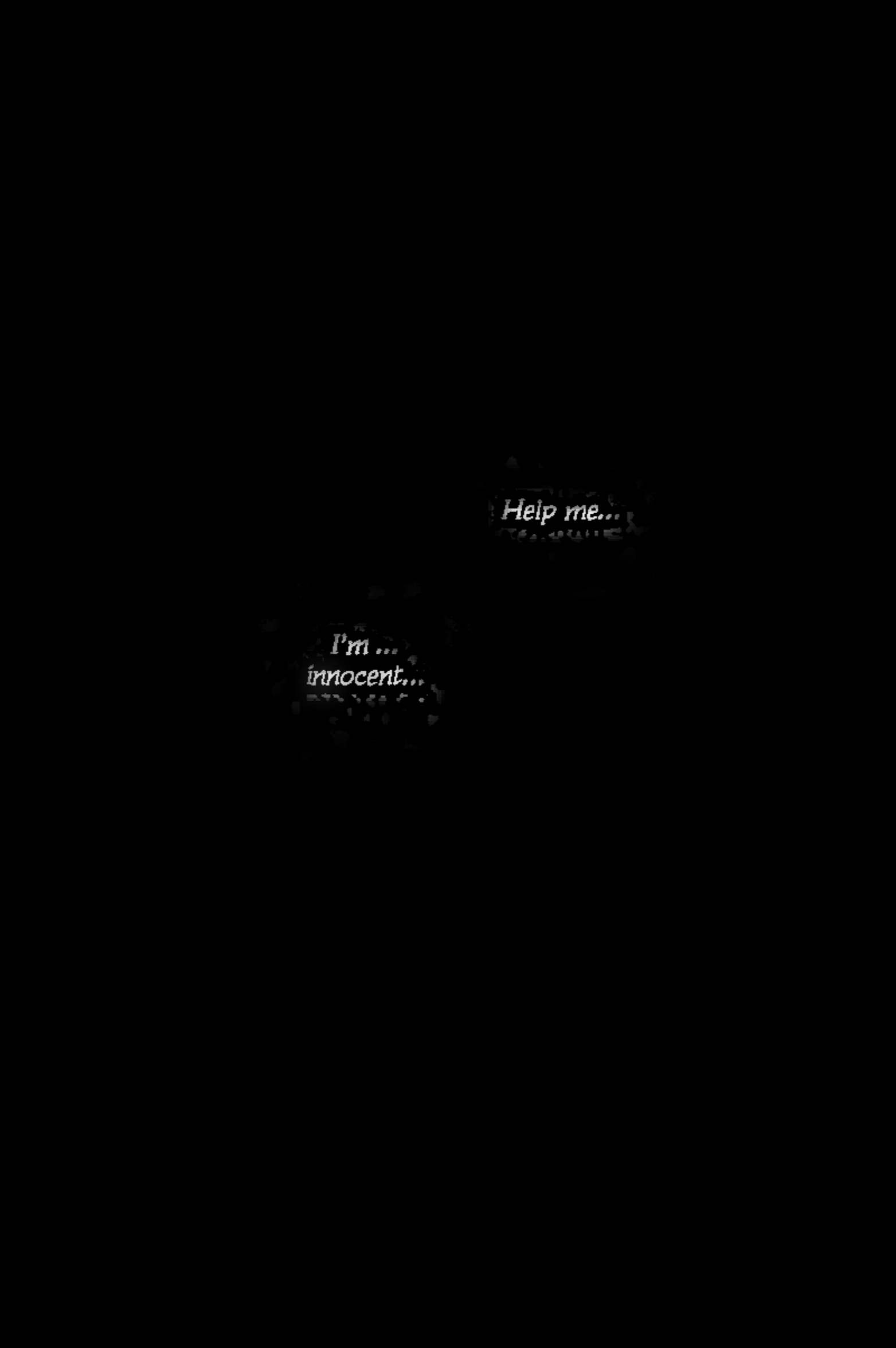
WOW, NOW I LOOK LIKE A REAL PIRATE!
HEY, STAY STILL!
COOOOL!
Me, too! Me, too!
Wait we're not Indians!
WOW, THAT'S AWESOME!
I MAY NOT LOOK IT, BUT I'M AN ART STUDENT.
Ugly
Even though you're nonsense
HARU, YOU'RE GOOD AT DRAWING!
AWESOME!
HEY, YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO PUT THAT ON!
PIRATES DON'T PUT ON SUNTAN LOTION!!
But I'll get sunburnt
Splat
YOU'RE NOT ONE OF US ANYMORE!!
HUH?
Yeah. My summer vacation is long now, really long...
STUPID, SUMMER VACATION IS LONGER FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS!
HUH? WAIT, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO TO COLLEGE?
ME, TOO! ME, TOO!
ALL RIGHT! NOW IT'S HARU'S TURN.

I DON'T HAVE ANY-THING WITH ME.
YOU CAN'T EXPECT ME TO WHIP OUT SOME-THING
HARU, YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO DIDN'T BRING ANYTHING.
HUHH?!
EVERYONE BROUGHT FOOD AND STUFF, EXCEPT YOU!
WH-WHAT IS THIS, ALL OF A SUDDEN ...
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN TRULY ONE OF US!
YOU'VE BEEN LIKE THIS FROM THE VERY START, HARU!
aughhh.
Don't take them out!
ALL I HAVE ARE MY BOOBS.
WELL, I WOULDN'T RECOMMEND THIS, BUT...
SFX: GULP
HUH, THIS IS NOTH-ING! ♡
tremble tremble
drip drip
YEAH, I CAN SMOKE THIS ALL DAY LONG!
I SHOULD HAVE TRIED THIS EAR-LIER ☆

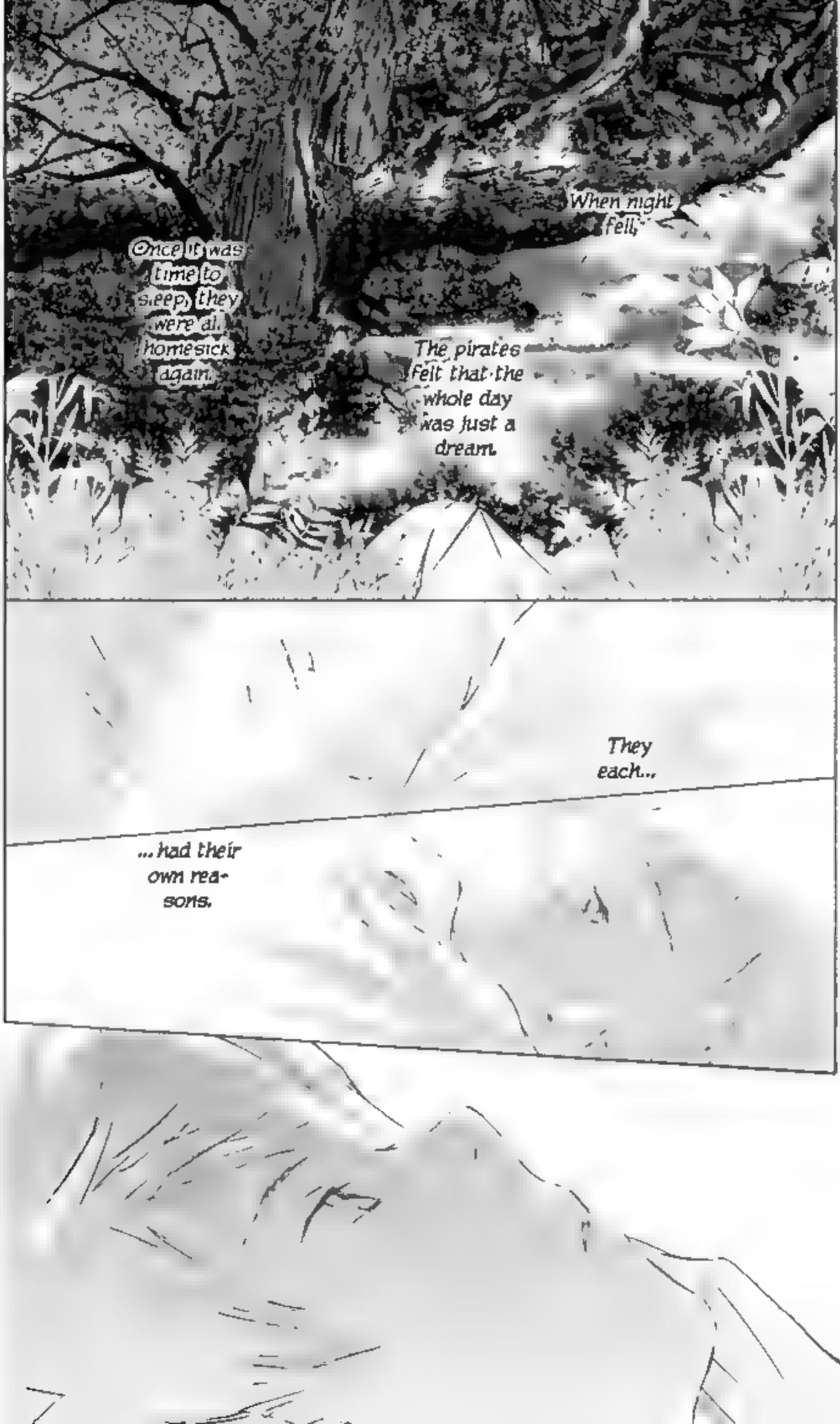
WHOA, WE GOT ANOTHER ONE!
HARU!
ALL RIGHT!!
COOL, WHERE DID YOU LEARN HOW TO DO THAT, HARU?
HEHE, IT'S BEEN A WHILE, BUT I M STILL PRETTY GOOD!
OH, WELL! WHEN I WAS A KID, GENZO ...
OLD MAN GENZO TAUGHT ME...
AH...
AH ...
HARU, I CAUGHT ONE, TOO!
I-I CAUGHT ONE!

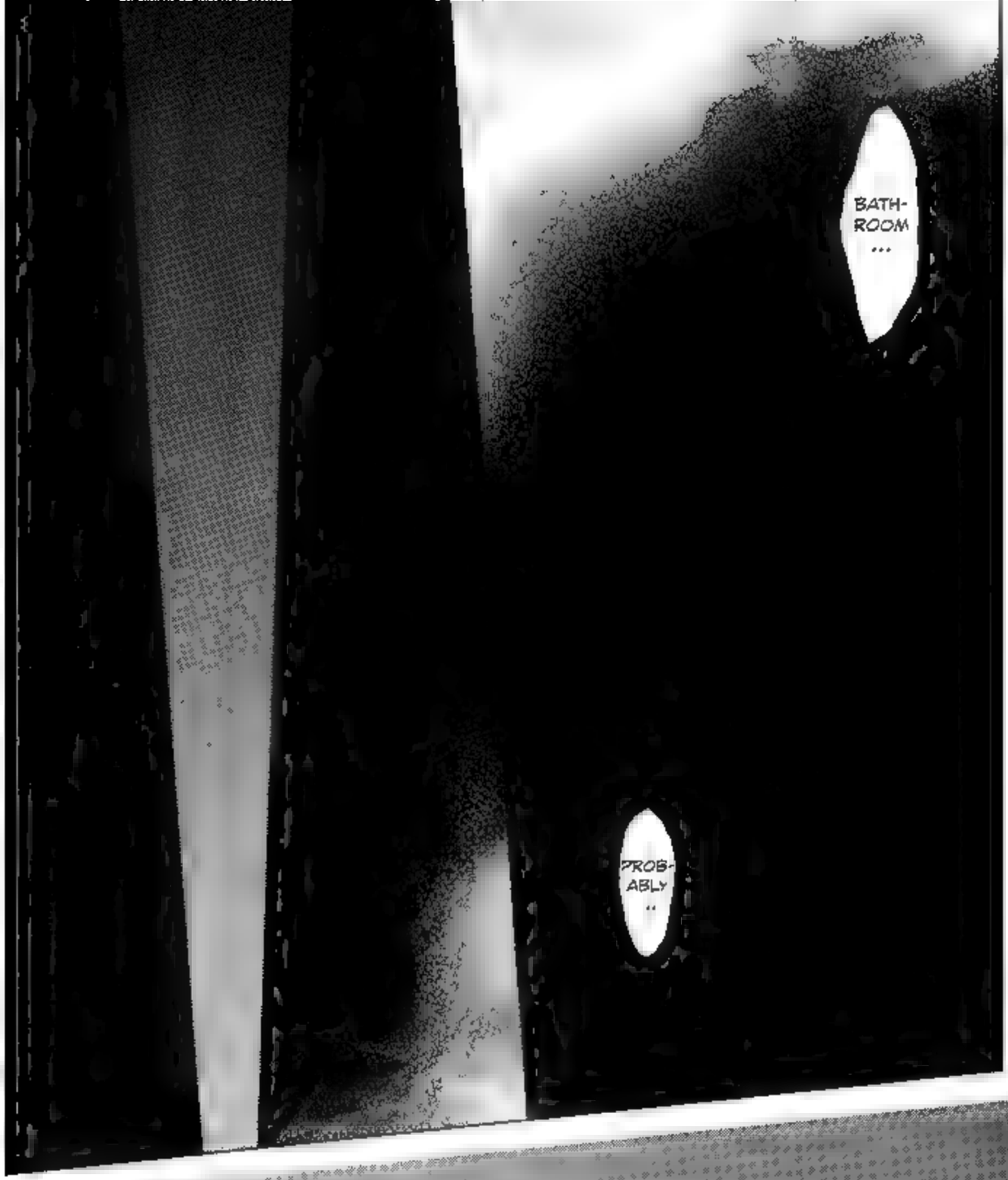
TO FISH, YOU NEED THREE THINGS: 1. A GOOD ARM. 2. A POLE. 3. BAIT!
DON'T UNDERESTIMATE THE WATER!
SLEEP WELL, FISH WELL!
YOU WON'T GET ANY BIG FISH IF YOU CAN SEE THE MOUNTAINS NEAR YOU.
SFX: AHAHAHA
I...
I WANT TO HELP.
HUH?
HE MIGHT NOT BE TOO POPULAR IN TOWN, BUT I...
THE OLD MAN... HE SAID THAT HE USED TO OWN A BIG SHOP, BUT WAS TRICKED INTO RUIN. THAT'S WHEN HE BECAME AN IDLER...
WE'RE ALL IN THE SAME BOAT.
ME ... AND EVERYONE ELSE, TOO. ALL THE KIDS AROUND HERE HAD OLD MAN GENZO MAKE THEM KITES AND GIVE THEM FISH THAT HE CAUGHT.

OLD MAN GENZO S A GOOD GUY! HE'S OUR FRIEND!
HUH?!
NO WAY! NO!! YOU PROMISED!!
NO!
WAIT A SECOND, YOU COULDN'T HAVE...
AREN'T YOU A PIRATE?!
HARU, YOU'RE SUCH A COWARD!
ONE WRONG STEP, AND WHO KNOWS WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO US?
AND TO MAKE THINGS WORSE, THE CULPRIT IS THE KIND OF GUY WHO HAS NO PROBLEM PUTTING THE BLAME ON SOMEONE ELSE!
I DON T WANT TO GET CAUGHT UP IN ANY MORE TROUBLE.
FRIEND?! THAT GEEZER?! I M F NE WITH BE NG A COWARD!
I mean, it's murder!!
But towards the kids... We all know that he's rotten.
...and puts on a good face for the adults.
He works at an antique store geared towards rich people...
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO TOLD ME ABOUT ODA-GIRI!

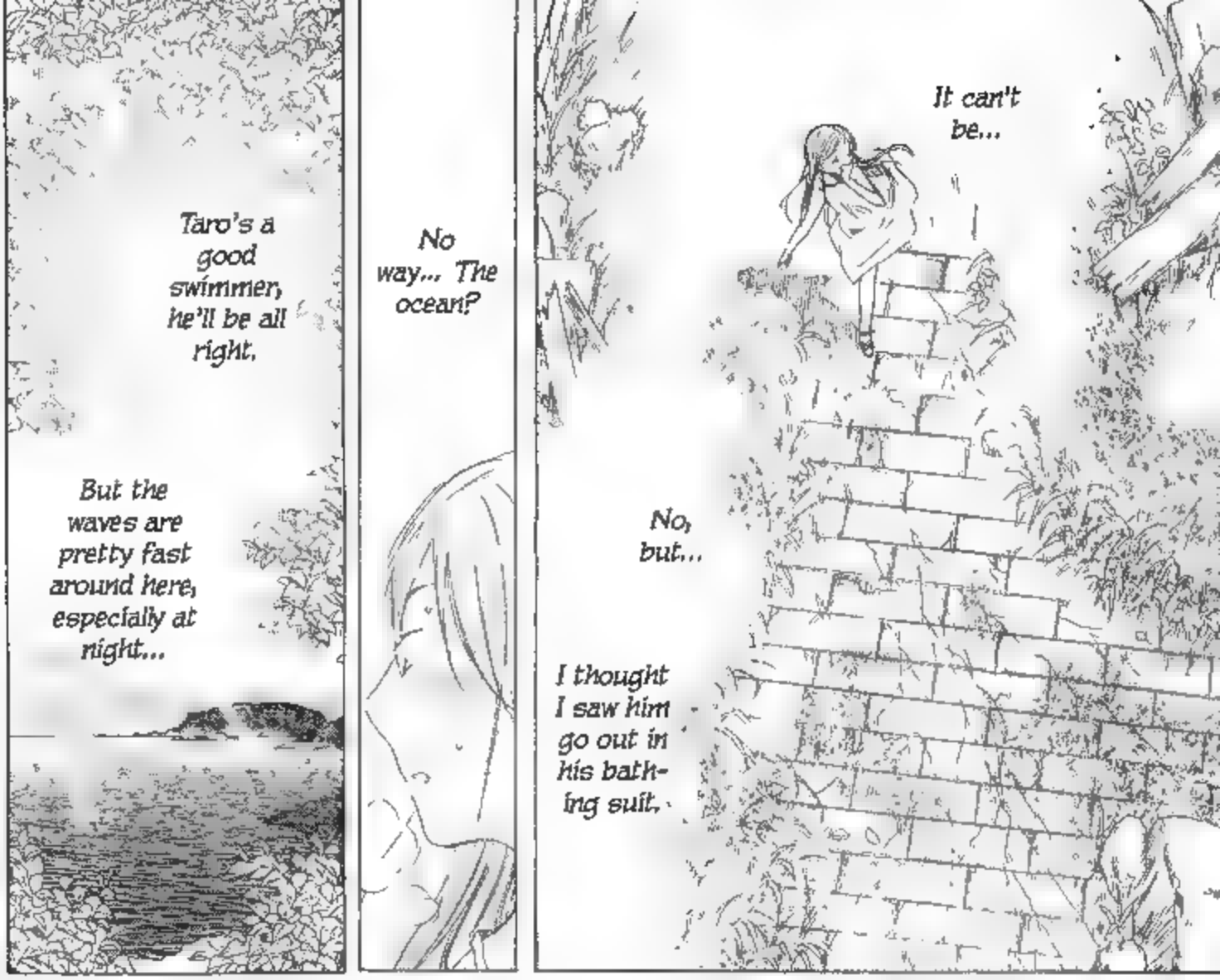

Help me...
I'm ...
innocent...

I CAN'T HELP IT...
WE... WE ONLY SAW IT HAPPEN ...


When night fell,
Once it was time to sleep, they were all homesick again.
The pirates felt that the whole day was just a dream.
They each...
...had their own reasons.

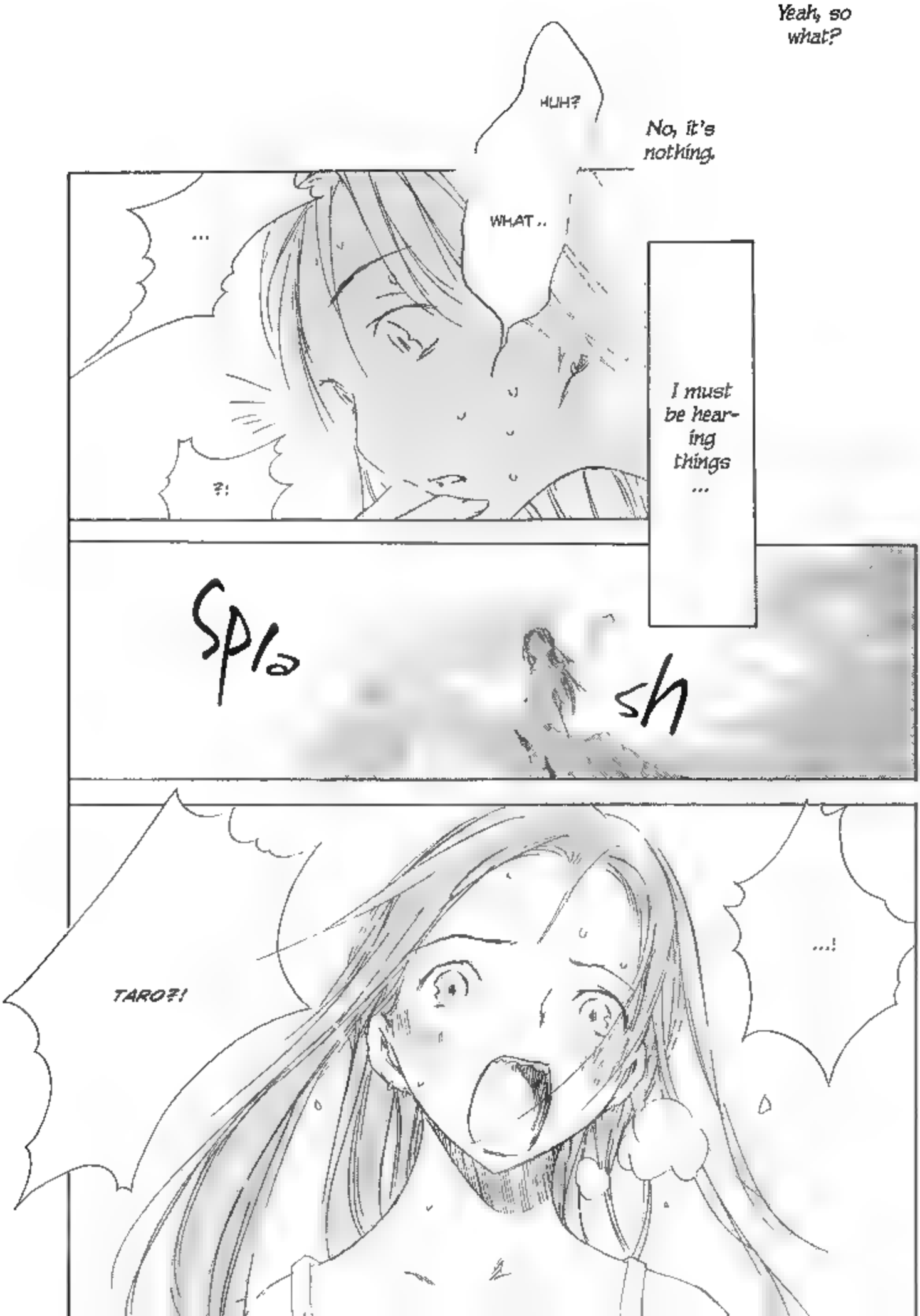

BATH-
ROOM
...
PROB-
ABLY
..

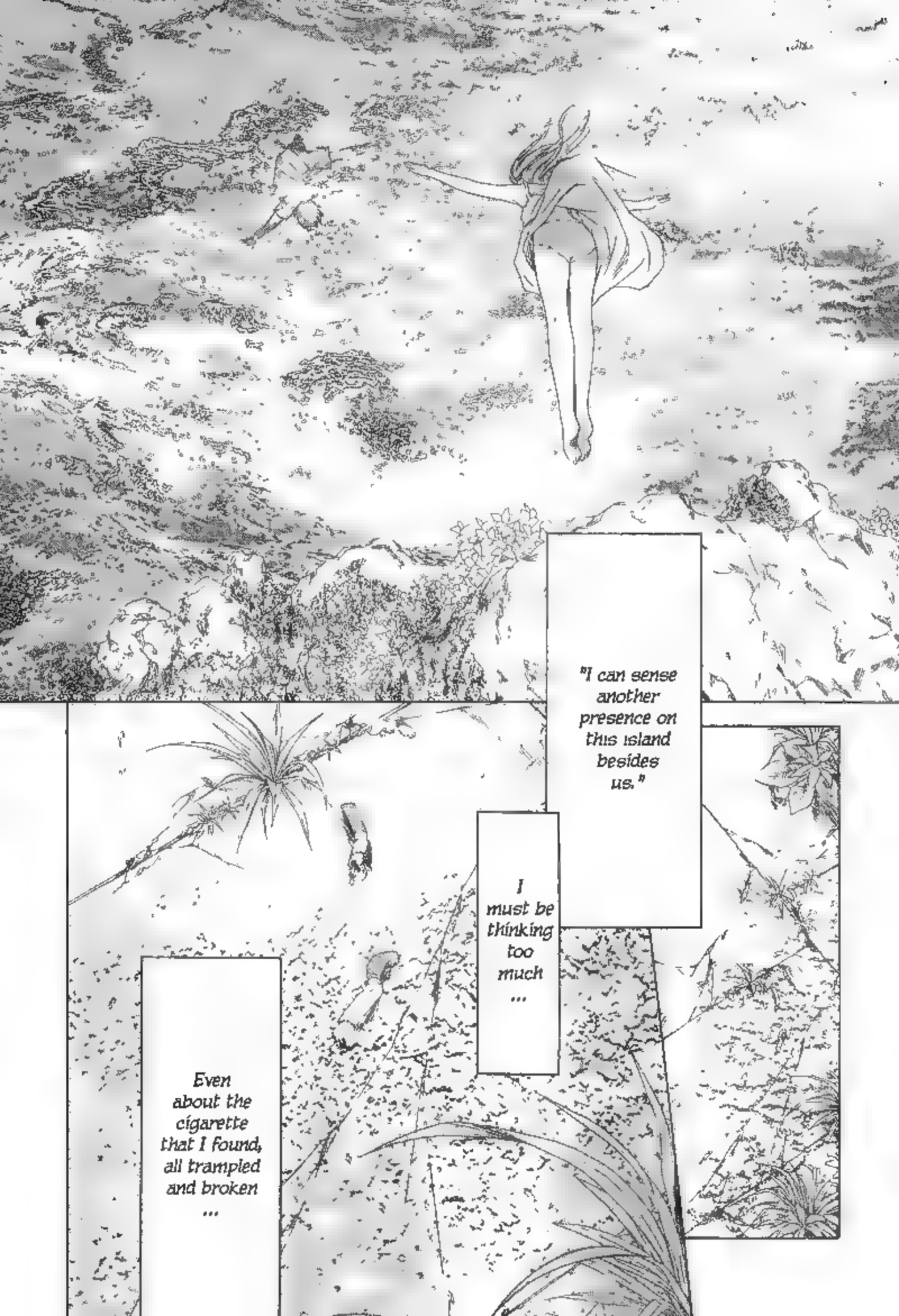
—not back yet?


Taro's a good swimmer, he'll be all right.
But the waves are pretty fast around here, especially at night...
No way... The ocean?
It can't be...
No, but...
I thought I saw him go out in his bathing suit.

No...
Because of the fight we had yesterday?
Why?
No way.
...
SFX: BEND
OW!
OWW ....

SFX: THUMP
Hey, Haru.
Uh....
Do you always use this?
Don't you have any other brands?
HUH?
...
THIS...


Yeah, so what?
HUH?
No, it's nothing.
...
WHAT..
I must be hearing things ...
?!
Spla
sh
TARO?!
...!


"I can sense another presence on this island besides us."
I must be thinking too much ...
Even about the cigarette that I found, all trampled and broken ...

Katydid
Pararama Suzu
Sidney silver_deeds
Pollux wall flower
xengie Flump
mayairy-
active
'happybobo321
Freshy funnypages
Galletita gorelab ink
keppim p00k Lynite
Luppy
MegKF
terracannon876
riseabove77 JLindgren
Medea Saga pnyxtr
sekushibijin84
Sophendo|bot
Lighter
admins
barbapapa
flying robots
bukuwawa petr
mangauniverse
Vanderguard
jojo da crow
Friends
Forever
vio55555
Digitair Death
kalekala cracken
sioc shadowfoxx
Levin
super
active
chiaki
toshirodragon
narwhaltortellini
icassop Kavic
Lui
retired

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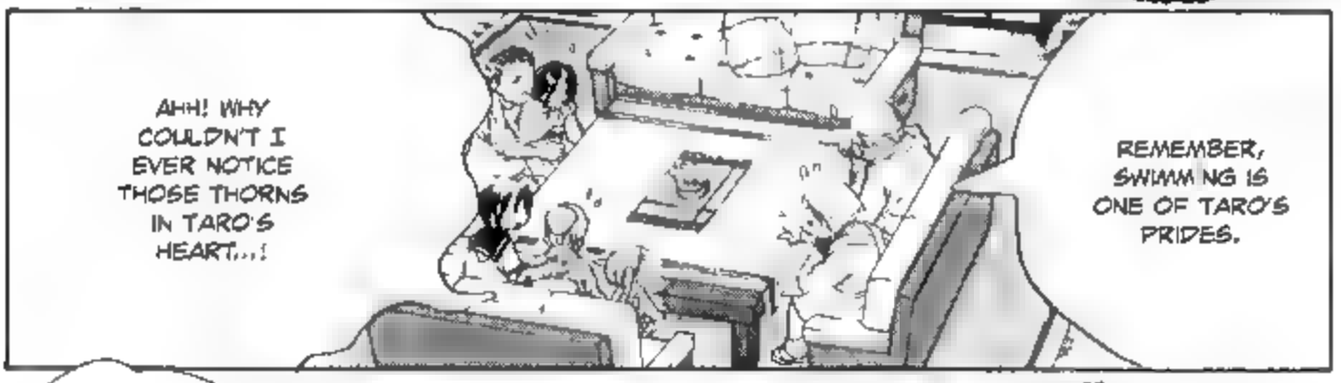
OLD MISSUS, TARO IS SURELY ALL RIGHT.
BUT, BUT...
AT LEAST DON'T GO TAKIN' IT OUT ON YOUR-SELF!
SHIN PRESENTS!
SAW
SHIN TAKAHASHI
Chapter 4


AHH! WHY COULDN'T I EVER NOTICE THOSE THORNS IN TARO'S HEART...!
REMEMBER, SWIMMING IS ONE OF TARO'S PRIDES.

IF BROTHER COULD JUST HAVE BEEN A BETTER KID.
REALLY.

SFX: WAILING
ABUSIVE FATHER
AS FOR US, THE OLD MAN-HE REALLY WHUPPED HIM TOO MUCH.
BUT IN THE SHOP, THERE WAS PLENTY OF MEAT TO GO 'ROUND. WE SHOULD'VE JUST LET HIM EAT AS MUCH AS HE WANTED TO.
WE HAD TO MAKE HIM DIET.
US, TOO. NIKU, TAKUYA WAS ALWAYS SO CHUBBY.

TARO CERTAINLY COULDN'T BE SAID TO BE A GOOD KID, ALWAYS GOING 'ROUND PLAYING PRANKS ON EVERYONE. I DARESAY HE WAS A DEVILISH LITTLE RASCAL.
TAE, YOU WILL NEVR TALK 'BOUT YOUR BROTHER LIKE THAT!
HE'S A KIND KID, CONSIDERATE OF PEOPLE'S FEELIN'S . . MY LOVABLE . . NEPHEW...
..WHEN PLAYIN' HIS PRANKS, HE NEVER SETS OUT TO HURT NOBODY.
BUT . . BUT..
SFX: SPLATTER SPLATTER
cough
...WELL, WE MUST TAKE OUR LEAVE FOR TODAY. .
BUT IN CASE THE POLICE EVER HAVE ANY NEWS, PLEASE~
SPEAKING OF WHICH ... TAE. HOW LONG ARE YOU GONNA STAY UP?'
...SORRY.
HUH?! THAT WINDOW OVER THERE'S GONE OPEN. CLOSE IT UP, AND HURRY UP ONTO BED.

huff
cough
cough
huff
huff
huff
cough
whistle
huff
HUH?!

ID-
A SCOUTING TRIP!
IT WAS JUST A SCOUTING TRIP!
TO SEE HOW MUCH THE ADULTS WERE WORRIED ABOUT US.
YOU'RE A MIDDLE-SCHOOL STUDENT.
DON'T YOU UNDER-STAND THAT?!
IDIOT.. OF COURSE THEY'RE WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
HARU, YOU'RE REALLY ANNOYING ME WITH THAT TALK...
... ALWAYS BE IN PAIN...!
YOU KNOW! YOU HAVE TO THINK ABOUT HOW MUCH THEY'RE WORRIED ABOUT YOU!
THOSE WORRIED PEOPLE WHO CAN'T DO ANY-THING BUT WAIT WILL ALWAYS BE...
ALWAYS BE...
LIKE SOME OLD AUNTIE.

HOW DISAPPOINT-ING. .
SFX: JGHHHH
SFX: RIPPLE RIPPLE
IT'S...
NOT MY!
FAULT .
FOR BE NG AN ADULT.
NO THAT S NOT WHAT I MEANT
I JUST KNOW THAT THERE IS
PLENTY OF STUFF TO BE AFRAID OF.
WE'RE FRIENDS HERE

snap
snap
SO, WHAT DID YOU FIND IS GOIN' ON WIT' THE FOLKS IN TOWN?!
DURIN' THE SCOUTING TRIP!

SFX: CRUNCH CRUNCH CRUNCH
I WAS AMBUSHED BY THE ENEMY! BUT I BEAT THEM ALL BACK!
WHOA. WHAT DID YOU DO, TARO?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
JUST WAIT. DON'T BE SO GREEDY!
IT'S NEWS THAT I, THE PIRATE KING, RISKED MY LIFE TO FIND OUT.
LOOK, EVERYONE, AT THIS SCAR!
ACTUALLY, THOSE WERE THE MARKS WHERE I SCRATCHED HIM...
...when I was flailing about at sea.
SO GOOD!
WAH!
TV?!
TV?!
IT'S A BIG RACKET THERE'S A TV REPORTER 'N TOWN, TOO.
ALL THE FOLKS IN TOWN ARE OUT TOGETHER LOOKIN' FOR US.
Speaking of which...
I AIN'T TOO SURE, THOUGH.
Was the reporter our interviewin' people?

(THAT'S NOT GOOD.)
(AWESOME!)
UMM, HEY GUYS ... SINCE THE WEATHER LOOKS LIKE IT'S TAKING A TURN FOR THE WORSE, WHY DON'T WE HEAD BACK SOON. .
IT'LL ALL OVER THE COUNTRY'S NEWS!
WE'RE FAMOUS!
YOU LITTLE BRAT!
BE QUIET, YOU COWARD!
HEY...
I JUST THOUGHT OF A GREAT IDEA!
Ahhhh! I don't want to know!

I KNOW! WE'LL SCARE THE WITS OUT OF THOSE ADULTS!
YEAH, EVERYONE'LL BE WHITE WITH SHOCK!
IT'LL BE SO COOL.
HOW CAN YOU GET EXCITED ABOUT THAT...?
I don't want to know, but I want to know.
(FULL OF DREAD.)
THAT'S BRILLIANT!
SFX: CAWN CAWN
OK, HARU, COME A LITTLE CLOSER.
OH
HEE♡
WON'T YOU TELL YOUR BIG SISTER, TOO?
UMMM ...
IS THIS GOOD ENOUGH?
SFX WOOOOOW
AS IF I WOULD TELL YOU. IDIOT.

Same here!
WHAT 'BOUT YOU?!
AS THE CAPTAIN OF THE SHIP, AH WILL NOT HAVE HARU AS MAH PIRATE MATE!
BOY meat

YOU JUST FAIL AS A PIRATE!
EVEN AS THE WITCH, YOU'RE A USELESS COWARD.

YOU DIDN'T BRING ANY FOOD WITH YOU,
so I had to give you some of my meat to eat
But...

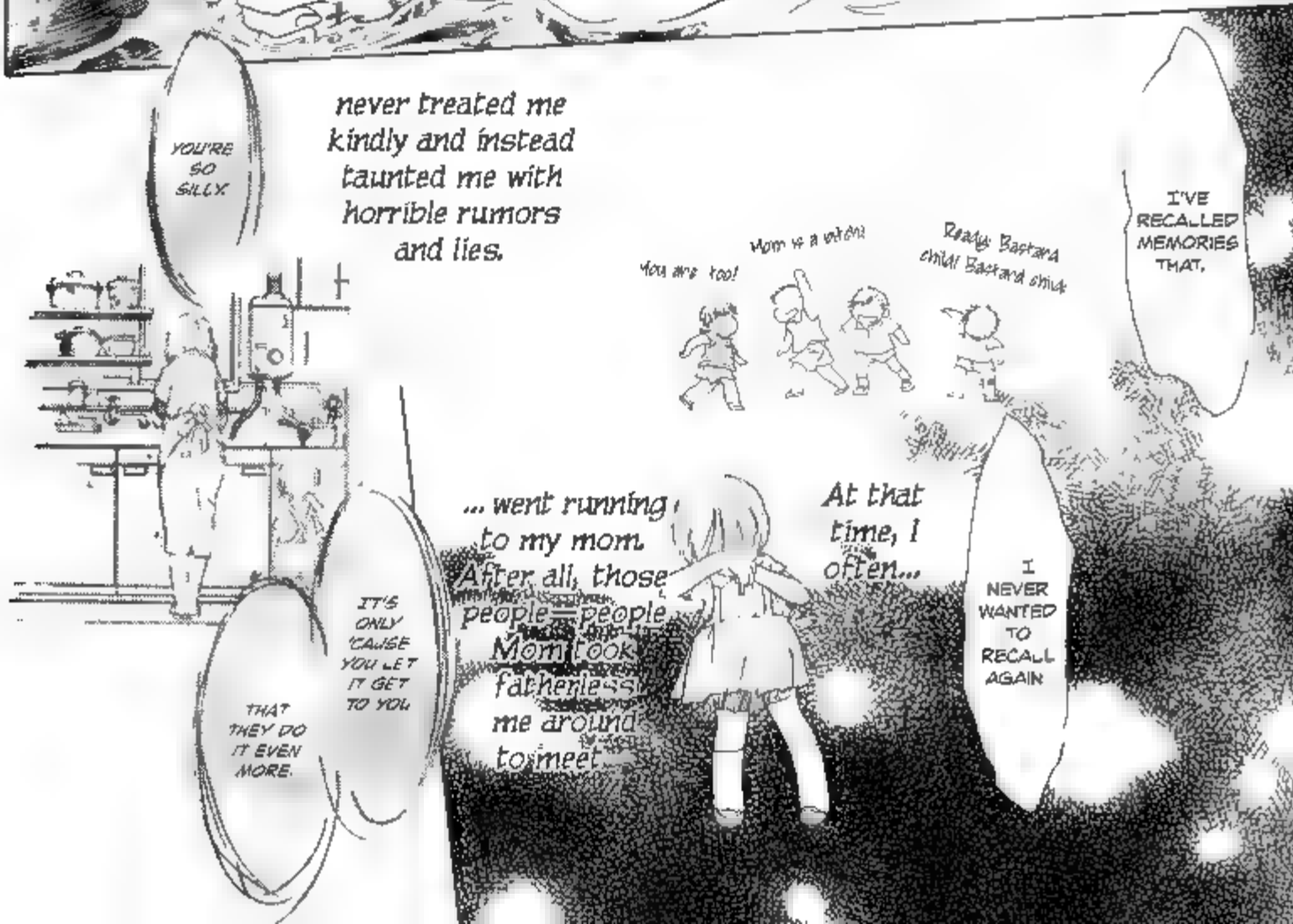
And! you sing badly around the camp fire...
AS A GIRL, YOU CAN'T CUT YOUR HAIR.
But...

But...
YOU MAY GO HOME NOW.

What am I doing ... right now...?
SPLASH
I'm such an idiot.
A big, stupid idiot!
A big idiot.
What am I doing ...?

Damn it!
Wahhh...! Now I'm running away from home!
ON BAG. TAKUYA'S GRAIN BUSHEL
SFX. WHEEZE WHEEZE WHEEZE
SFX SPLASH SPLASH SPLA

Sad
To be bullied at my age...


YOU'RE SO SILLY.
never treated me kindly and instead taunted me with horrible rumors and lies.
You are too!
Mom is a whore!
Really! Bastard child! Bastard child
I'VE RECALLED MEMORIES THAT.
... went running to my mom. After all, those people = people Mom took fatherless me around to meet...
At that time, I often...
I NEVER WANTED TO RECALL AGAIN
IT'S ONLY 'CAUSE YOU LET IT GET TO YOU.
THAT THEY DO IT EVEN MORE.

THIS IS THE MOST LONESOME FEELING IN THE WORLD. .
IT'S THIS. .
YOU KNOW WHAT'S TRULY PAINFUL ...?
IF YOU RUN AWAY BECAUSE OF THAT, THEN YOU'VE LOST TO THEM.
... to want and receive unconditional love and concern.
I thought it was my privilege as a child...
They have no meaning for me.
no matter how true they were.
Those weren't the words I wanted to hear,
Argh... I'm an idiot.
That's something that I have no right to say.
YOU HAVE TO CONSIDER HOW MUCH THEY'RE WORRYING ABOUT YOU!
SFX SPLASH
ME~ SOMEONE WHO LEFT MY OLD, AGING MOTHER BEHIND,
BACK HERE IN...
.THIS TOWN. .
... me ...
I wonder if those kids would, like, be worried about...

I DIDN'T WANT THINGS TO TURN OUT THIS WAY ...
dazzle

"Are your smokes always these?"
"Do you ever smoke any other brand?"
"Hey, Haru."
Huh...?
What ...?
I'm so stupid... I didn't realize it.
Huh?
Huh?!
Inside...
... that abandoned building...?
Huh...?
...?
Was that ... light...?

Notice that there're signs
island... for some
Huff
This is bad... The waves are quite high.

SFX: BATTLE BATTLE BATTLE BATTLE
AHHHHH!
SFX: RUMBLE RUMBLE
KILL!
WHAT ARE WE TO DO?! THE TENT'S GONNA FLY AWAY!
HANG ON TIGHT!
. . THIS IS TERRIBLE. . IT'S REALLY VIOLENT...
AHHH! WE'RE GOING TO DIE!
SFX: RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE WASH CRUNCH RUMBLE

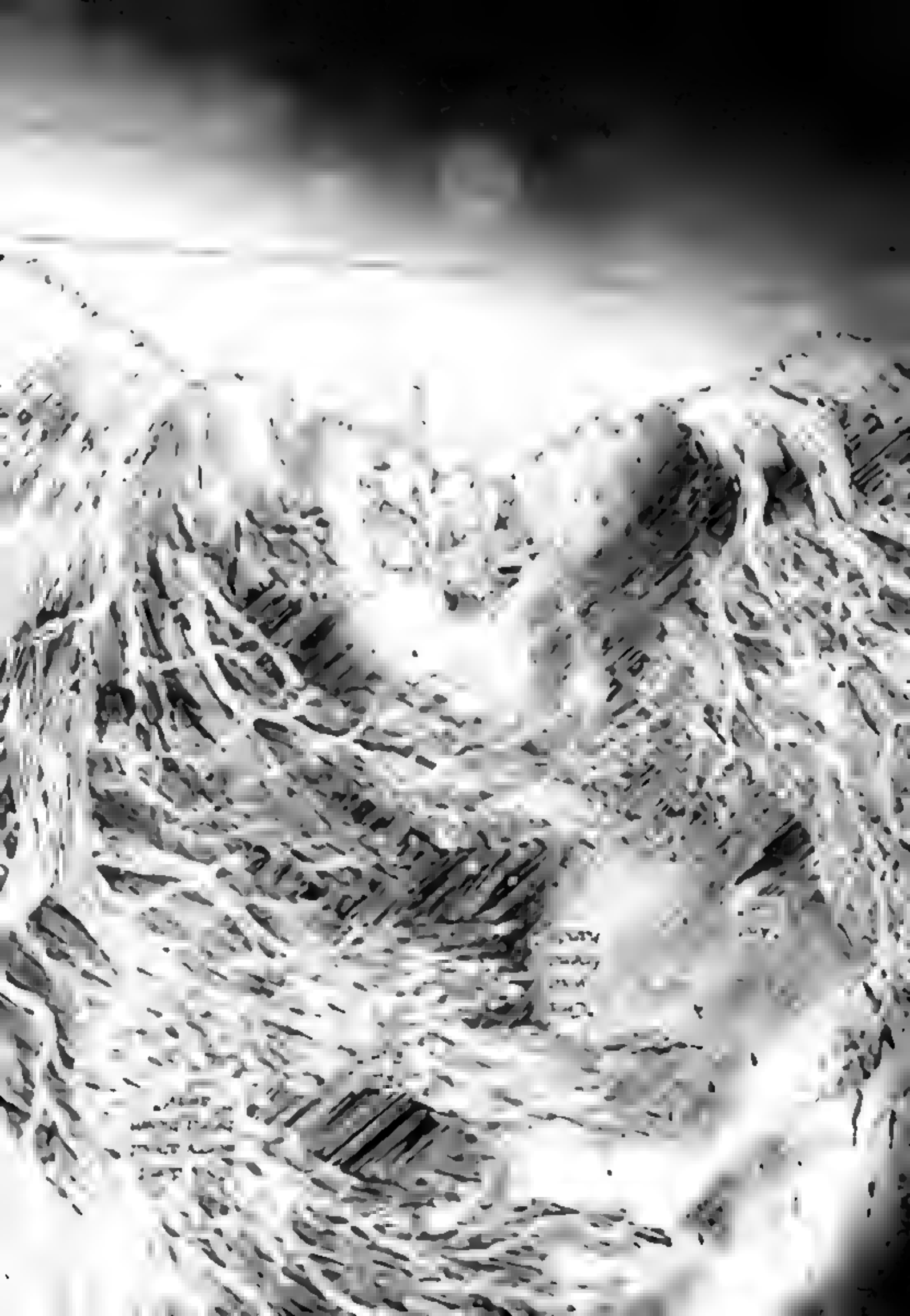
SEX. RUMBLE WIZARD RUMBLE
IS HARU GOING TO BE ALL
HEY, TARO
Isn't this a storm...?
Haru is an adult.

I'M JUST YOUR ORDINARY MIDDLE-SCHOOLER WHO'S ON THE CHUBBY SIDE.
COWER
I AIN'T NO PIRATE!
WAT ARE YOU SAYIN'?! DO YOU HAVE ANY PRIDE AS PIRATES!
SFX WHOOSHHH
SHUT UP, TARO! PIN THIS DOWN...!
AHHH! HAVE SOME BACKBONE! NIKUYA, YA SO AFREAD YA CAN'T EVEN STAND UP, BUT ALL YA DONE NOW IS COMPLAIN.
The tent is—
No! We gonna get blown away!
SFX FLAP FLAP FLAP
BUT AH'M THE PIRATE KING...
AREN'T YOU ALL A BUNCH OF IDIOTS.
SHUT UP! THIS IS MY DAD'S TENT!
ENOUGH, TARO! YOU GO PIN THIS HERE DOWN!
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!

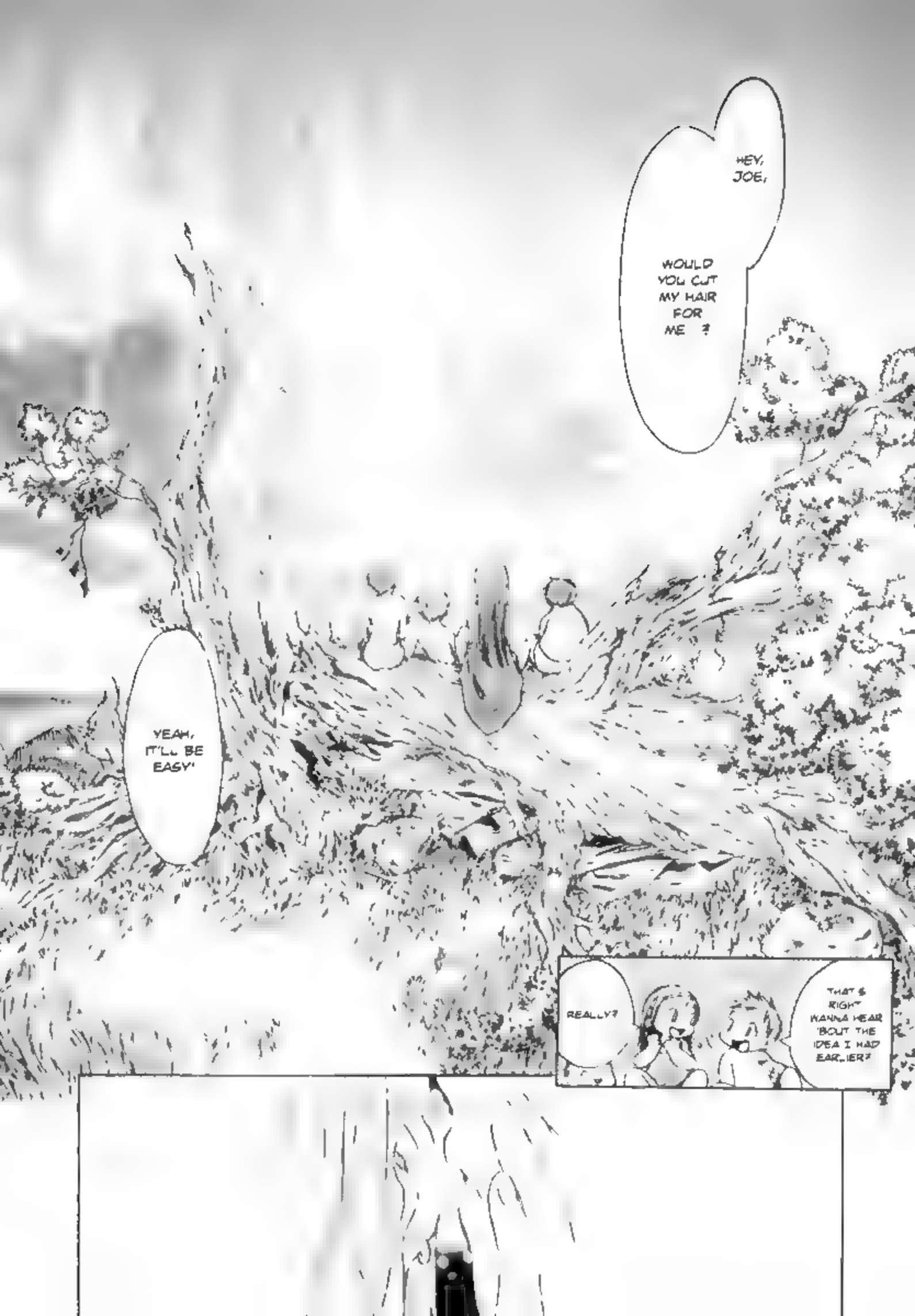
THE PIRATES... RISE FROM THEIR GRAVES TO LAUGH AT YOU!
TURNING ON YOUR MATES JUST 'CAUSE THERE'S A STORM...

Shut up! Don't brag while your panties're showin' for all to see!
BUT I AM THE HOMELESS-TRAMP HARU! I SLEEP WHEREVER AND WHENEVER I WANT TO!
AND SEE WHETHER OR NOT A BUNCH OF BRATS MAY HAVE DIED.

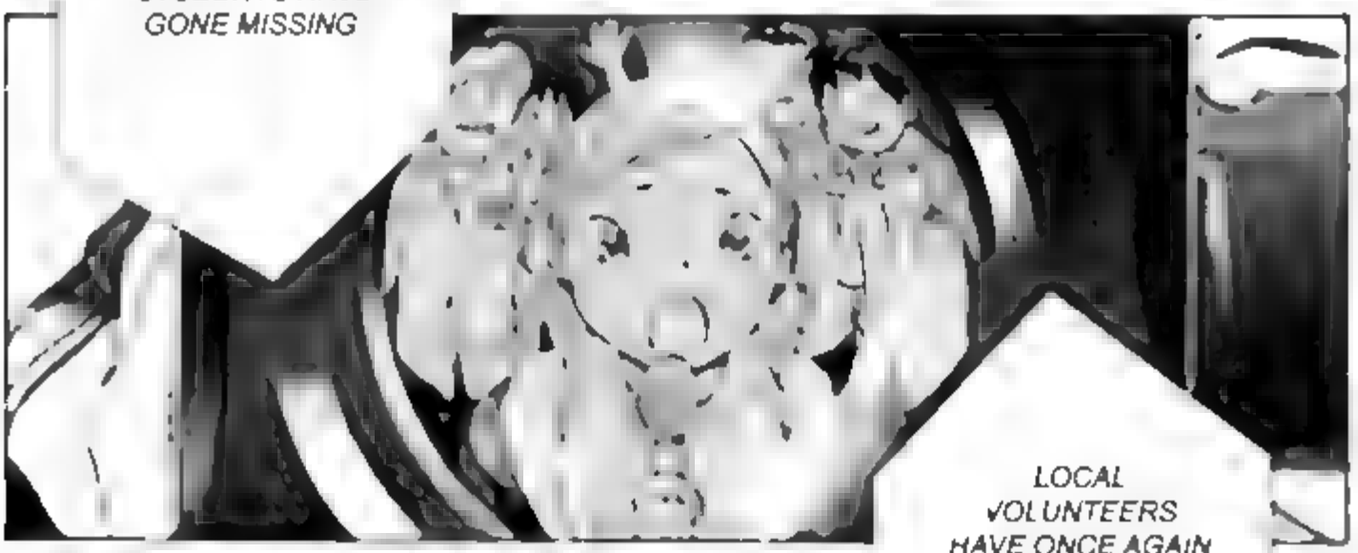
Aura cadabra. Urjara haripta!
Nikuya...
"Haripta?"
SFX HEE HEE HEE HEE
NIKUYA, I'M GOING TO CAST A STRONG SPELL ON YOU.
FOOL. WHAT IS THERE TO WORRY WHEN YOU HAVE A WITCH AS A FRIEND...?
SFX WOOOOOO
WELL, IT'S JUST THUNDER! TAKE SHELTER UNDER THIS TREE!
WAIT, NIKUYA...
I'm gonna get down awaaaay
SFX PWWWEWW
YOU ARE NOW HEAVY!
You call it that a spell?
That's a fact, though.

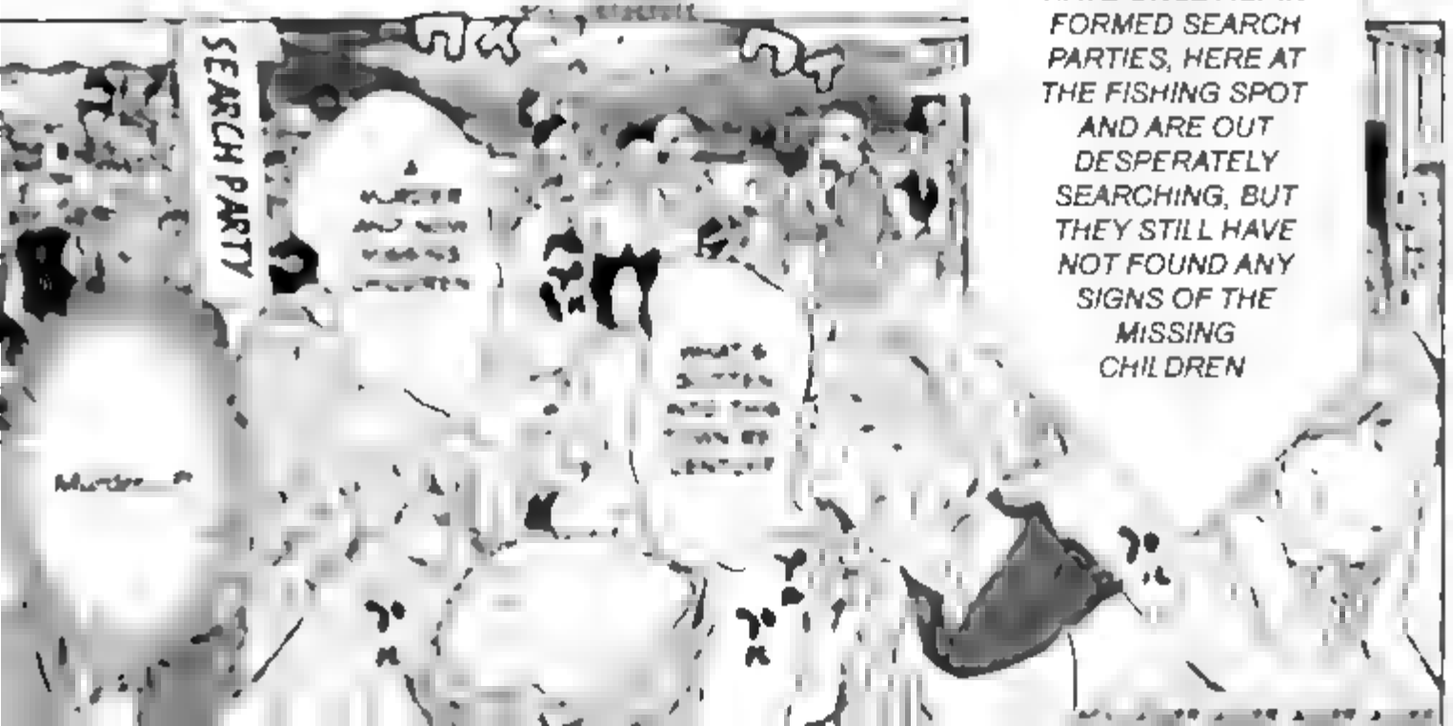


drip
drip
drip
drip
drip
drip
drip
drip


HEY, JOE,
WOULD YOU CUT MY HAIR FOR ME ?
YEAH, IT'LL BE EASY!
REALLY?
THAT'S RIGHT WANNA HEAR 'BOUT THE IDEA I HAD EARLIER?

REPORTING LIVE FROM THE LOCATION WHERE THREE MIDDLE-SCHOOL STUDENTS HAVE GONE MISSING


LOCAL VOLUNTEERS HAVE ONCE AGAIN FORMED SEARCH PARTIES, HERE AT THE FISHING SPOT AND ARE OUT DESPERATELY SEARCHING, BUT THEY STILL HAVE NOT FOUND ANY SIGNS OF THE MISSING CHILDREN


SEARCH PARTY

SFX: CLUTCH
I'm sorry...
I WAS THE LAST PERSON TO HAVE SEEN 'IM.
OH, YEAH?! I WAS THE LAST ONE WHO TALKED TO 'IM.
I WAS THE LAST PERSON HE BEAT UP.
Ah! Taro's been—
Miccio. That isn't related to Taro's disappearance.
SFX: TWITCH TWITCH
I didn't know...
SFX: SPOUT
I'm sorry, Taro.
I'm sorry ...
SFX: SPLRT
Don't bring up your boring, petty everyday things,
you rascal.
HANA
..
*ABOUT $11 USD.
I SHOULD HAVE JUST ACCEPTED THAT 1000 YEN BILL!
The truth is, that 1000 yen* bill was really...
...a shiny, important treasure to Taro...
I...
That's what you call cool...?
The kids recently have become rather cool...
MONEY?
Mommy, I think I can see stars.
SFX: WEEP WEEP
SFX: SPOOOOOUT

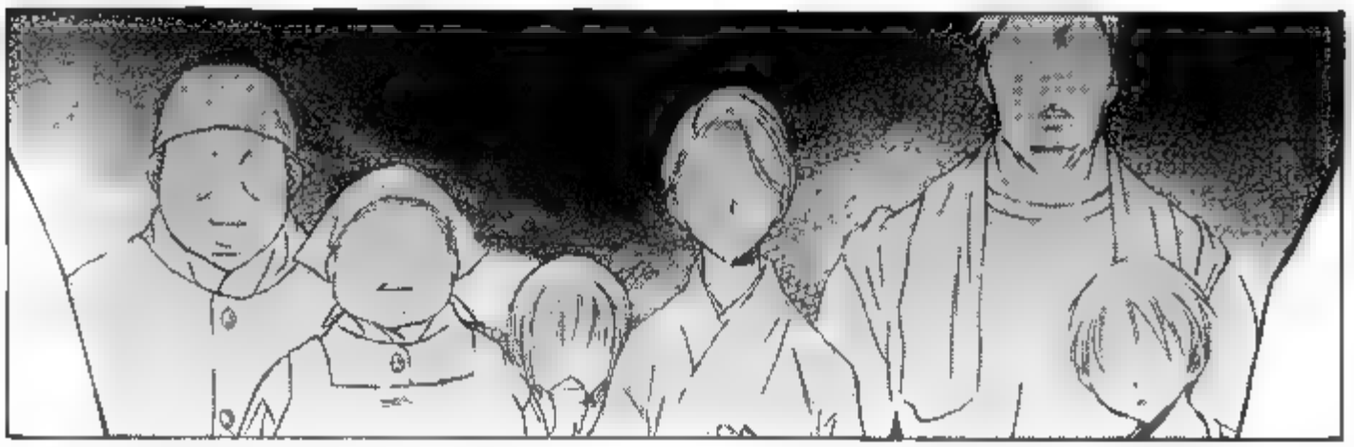
Yet while they were sayin' that Taro's dead, you guys are...
Dead?
-quiver-
Is he dead?
Oh, just as I thought, he's dead.
Hana is wearing scary right now.
Hey, hey
I'm dying...
SFX: KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK
MOM, GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF!
Taro might not be dead - yet
Taro, let me die with you!
SFX: AHHHHHH
UM... THERE ARE REPORTS THAT THERE HAS BEEN A MURDER RECENTLY IN TOWN
REPORTING LIVE WITH THE BEREAVING FAMILIES—NO. SCRATCH THAT... WITH THE SOUND OF SORROWFUL CRIES FROM FAMILIES GIVEN TO DESPAIR DUE TO THE YOUNG BOYS' DEATHS—NO. SCRATCH THAT
AHHHH!
NOW, EVERYONE, LET'S PRAY FOR HAPPINESS IN THEIR NEXT LIVES ... UMM, I MEAN ... FOR THE SAFETY OF THE LOST CHILDREN.
SNIFF
SNIFF
SNIFF

A COUGH..?
SFX: SPLASH SPLASH SPLASHHH
WAS THAT A SPLASH?

IT'S A MIRACLE!
IT'S—
IT'S—
SFX: SPLASH! SPLASH!!!
THE BOYS...
...WHO WERE MISSING . HAVE NOW . . RETURNED FROM THE SEA...!

SFX HA HA HA HA HA HA
EVERYONE! THANK YA ALL FOR WELCOMIN' US HOME!
PIRATE KING TARO 'N' COMPANY HAVE LANDED!

Daddy, they
sayin' they're
breakin'!



TARO!
ha
ha
ha
shock
bustle
bustle
bustle
Eek. Are they going to kill us...?
SFX SURPRISED
ビクッ!!!
SFX BRACE

Brother
I M SORRY
AUNTIE
Brother
Ohhhh.
Now then, why do I we need some
Yeah, really
AND WHAT A TOUCHING MOMENT
SORRY
Brother

HARU, COME TALK WITH US!
Haru, you come over here, too!
SFX: SHOCKED
LOOK AT THAT HAIR. IT'S LIKE SHE'S A TRAMP.
IF YOU'RE EVER AFRAID, JUST GET THE POLICE.
LIKE MOTHER LIKE DAUGHTER
JUST LIKE HER MOM.
HOW IMPROPER... TAKING OUT THE CHILDREN ..
NO WONDER THIS HAP-PENED...
AS AN ADULT WHAT'S SHE THINKING. ?
HUH? YOU WERE WITH THAT GIRL...?
SO, PERHAPS IT'S IN HER GENES...
...at that moment...
...I really regretted cutting my hair too short.
For some reason...
...I'm fine and undisturbed. I've always sat quietly and waited patiently,
all by myself for the storm to pass over.

WE THOUGHT T'IS ALL UP! IT HAD NOTHIN' TO DO WIT' HARU!
THAT'S WRONG!
DON'T MENTION HER FAMILY, IDIOTS!
I eat her hair!
HARU IS GREAT! SHE FISHES GOOD.
SHE DRAWS GOOD.
ON TOP OF THAT,
she's attending an arts school.
ON TOP O' T'AT! IF HARU WARN'T THERE, WE MIGHT NOT BE ALIVE RIGHT NOW!
HARU'S ONE O' US!

I AM REALLY GRATEFUL FOR. .
MS. HARU,
And thus,
.WHAT YOU DID FOR TARO.
one of summer's adventures...
smile
... came to its end,
SHYYYYYYYY!!

SFX. AH HA HA
WHITE PARTY TIME
but it left a little bit for an encore.
THIS HERE IS OUR OWN.
HERE, DRINK, DRINK, YOU'RE ALREADY MIDDLE-SCHOOLERS.
gah ha ha ha
AHH, CHEERS!
DRINK!
YEAH, YOU BE DA OWNERS O' DA TAVERN.
SHOCHU!
(I'M BURSTIN' INTO TEARS AGAIN)

SFX. WAH HA HA HA HA
NO... NAH- UHHH! I...
AND TARO COULD NEV'R BE OUTDONE BY DA LOCAL BOYS IN NONE OF 'IS PRANKS!
NO! TARO ENJOYED IT! HE WAS ENJOYIN' IT!
Got invited.

DID YA WANT TO MAKE YOUR AUNTIE WORRY?
TARO, TARO.. ! YA REALLY MADE ME WORRIED.
DID YA ENJOY IT?
COME NOW, MOM, TARO WAS JUST BEING CARELESS LIKE ALWAYS.
No
tears!
YOUR SISTER TAE WOULD AT LEAT LET ME KNOW T'AT SHE WAS ALIVE!
PLUS, HE'S AN IDIOT!
HA HA
SFX. HEH HEH

I HAD A DREAM ABOUT AUNT E!
THAT'S RIGHT! I FELT IT!
UH ... YEAH, REALLY!
TARO, だ！
REALLY?
SFX: DONG
SFX: THUMP THUMP THUMP
ドキドキドキ
JOE'S MOTHER WAS CRYING, SAYIN', "WE WHUPPED JOE TOO MUCH." AN' AUNTIE GOT MAD WHEN TAE SAID, "IF ONLY BROTHER COULD HAVE JUST BEEN A BETTER KID..."
THERE WAS YOU, AUNTIE AND MARY AND TAE AND JOE AND NIKUYA'S MOTHER AND FATHER IN THIS HOUSE HERE TALKIN'.
It's a miracle!
ALL OF IT! ALL OF IT GONE JUST LIKE THAT! JUST LIKE THAT, TARO!
YOU TOLD TAE TO SHUT THE WINDOW SAYIN', "THE WINDOWS GONE OPEN AGAIN."
AH, RIGHT!
SFX: OOOOOOOOOOOOOO

SFX: BUSTLE

"It was just a scouting trip."

...when...

But... that moment was...

MIRACLE!

A MIRACLE!

HEY, JOE'S MOM, YOU HEAR THAT? TARO... TARO...!

AHHH, THAT DREAM MUST'VE BEEN SENT TO YOU BY THE LORD'S ANGELS.

WHAT STRANGE POWERS THEY HAVE.

AND THEN AFTER THAT, AFTER EVERYONE WENT HOME, IT LOOKS LIKE YOU PRAYED FOR ME.

He'd said too much...

I was there, too

PERHAPS IF YOU HAD STAYED THERE, WE MIGHT EVEN BE SPEAKIN' RIGHT NOW.

AND THEN, AUNTIE, YOU BURST INTO TEARS, AND JOE'S MOTHER WENT CRYIN' RIGHT 'LONG WITH YOU.

AUNTIE ... YOU

CRIED A LOT MORE...

AH.

AND THEN, AFTER THAT. .

BUT 'CAUSE I WAS EMBARRASSED, I COULDN'T TAKE IT OUT.

I WANTED TO GIVE YOU A LETTER SAYIN': "PLEASE DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME. I AM NOT DEAD."

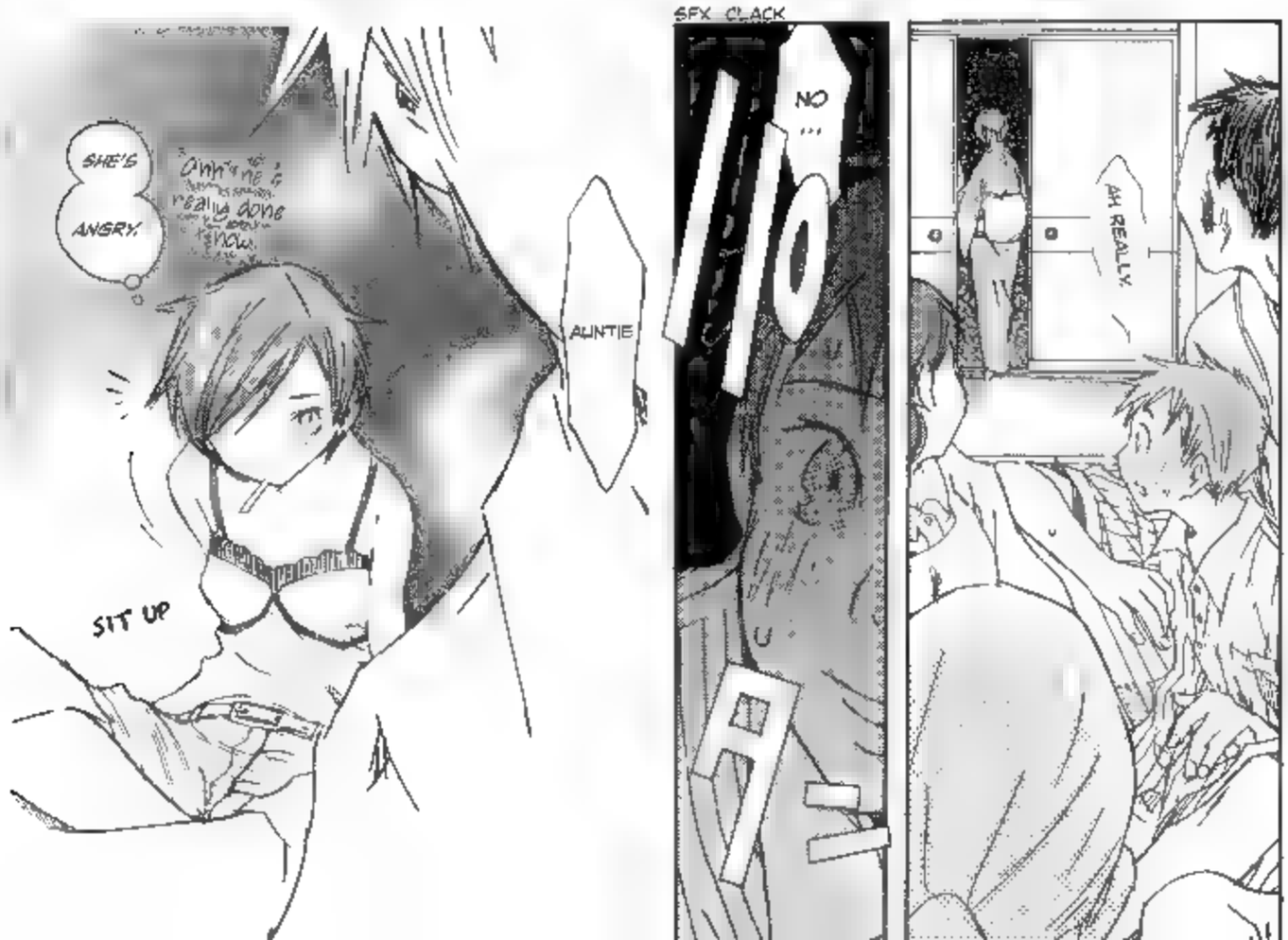
SO I STRAIGHTENED OUT YOUR COVERS AND LEFT OUT THE BACK DOOR...

.N MY DREAM.

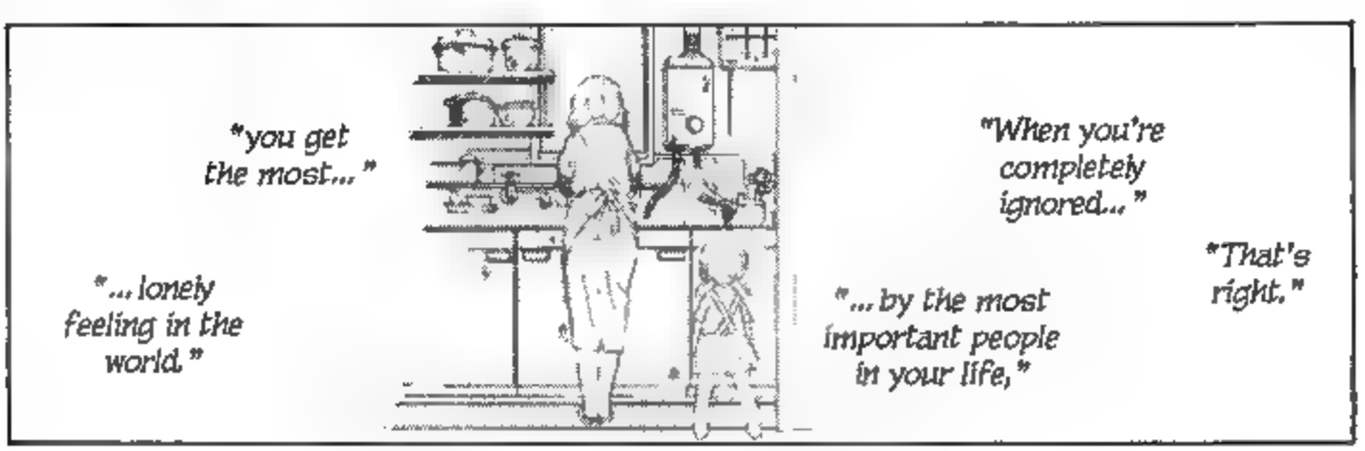
Ahhh ... I knew it.
HEY! BY THE WAY, BROTHER! DID YOU KNOW THAT WHILE YOU WERE ON THAT ISLAND, EVERYONE CAME OUT LOOKING FOR YOU AND THAT EVEN A TV REPORTER CAME?
THAT ALONE IS ENOUGH ..
I AM TOUCHED YOU WERE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR AUNTIE EVEN IN YOUR DREAM.
TARO ..
AHH, BIG BRO WENT OUT ON A SCOUTING TRIP!
ha ha ha ha ha ha
WHEN THE ADULTS WERE SAYIN' THAT, THAT WAS WHEN HE WAS 'ERE IN THAT HOUSE ON HIS SCOUTING TRIP!
SO TARO HEARD ALL 'BOUT THAT!
AHHHH!
YEAH!
PFF

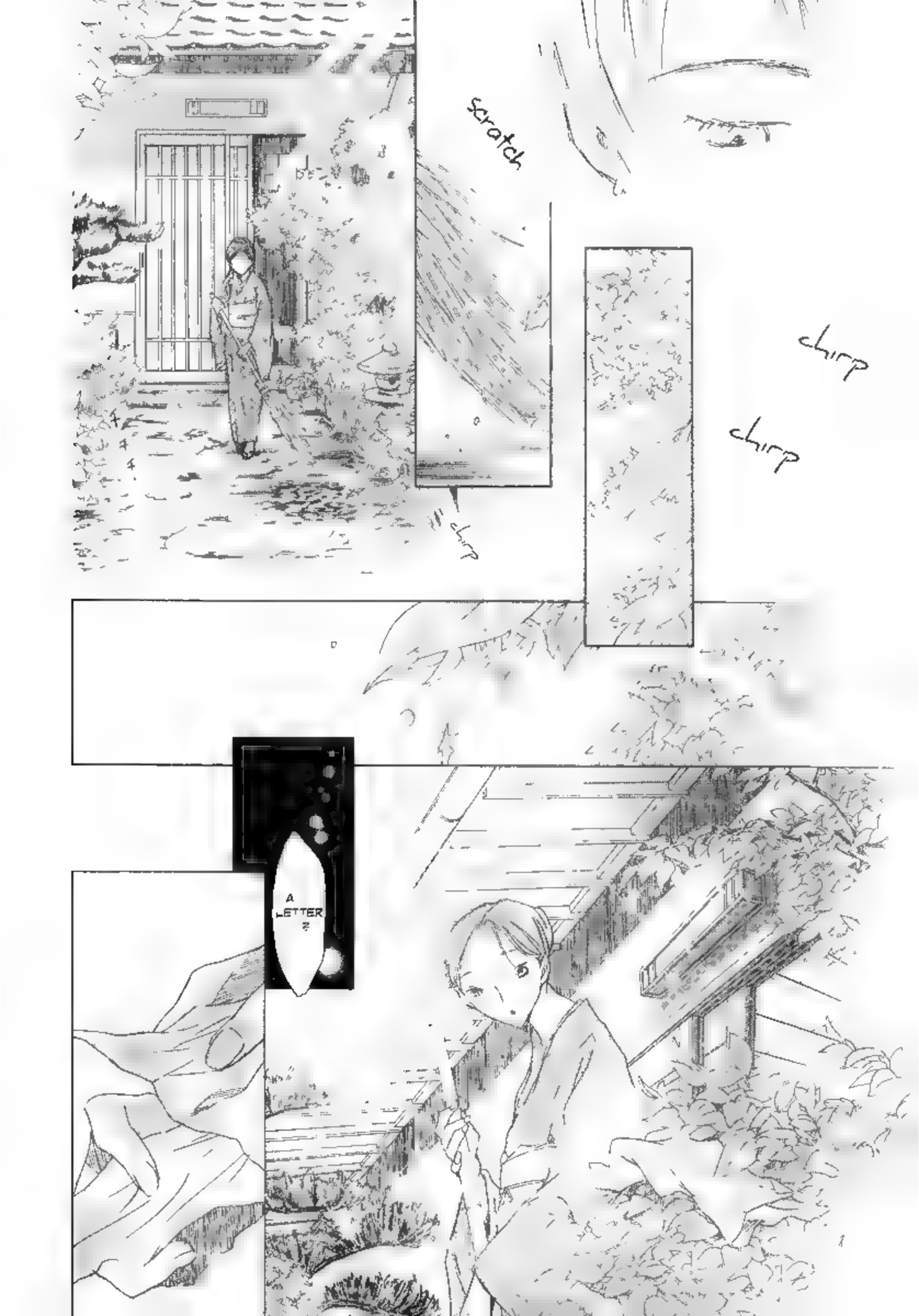
Oh, the old ma'am's been lynched. She really thought it was a miracle
SFX: AH HA HA HA HA HA
YOU CITY-SLICKER BOYS SURE ARE SMOOTH TALKERS.
YOU WARN'T SAYIN' NOTHIN' BUT LIES THIS WHOLE TIME.
Then,
TARO'S AN INTERESTING BOY, AIN'T HE?
NO .. UMMM-
KAIOU TAVERN
SFX: PAT PAT

AH DIDN'T HAVE NO LETTER. AH REALLY..
IT AIN'T LIKE
AH DIDN'T MEAN IT!
Don't hit me!
SFX: DODGE
ひ?
AUNTIE- TIMEOUT! THAT AIN'T IT..!


SHE'S ANGRY.
Ohh~ me's really done now.
AUNTIE
SIT UP
SFX: CLACK
NO ...
AH REALLY

"...?"
"What the hell ... is this?"
When I opened up that blurry letter, the salt of the island...
AH ...
Auntie,
please don't worry. I am just out playing pinatas. I am not dead. It's true
Taro
...and a small pile of sand spilled out.


"you get the most..."
"... lonely feeling in the world."
"When you're completely ignored..."
"... by the most important people in your life,"
"That's right."


scratch
chirp
chirp
chirp
A LETTER ?

And that is how...

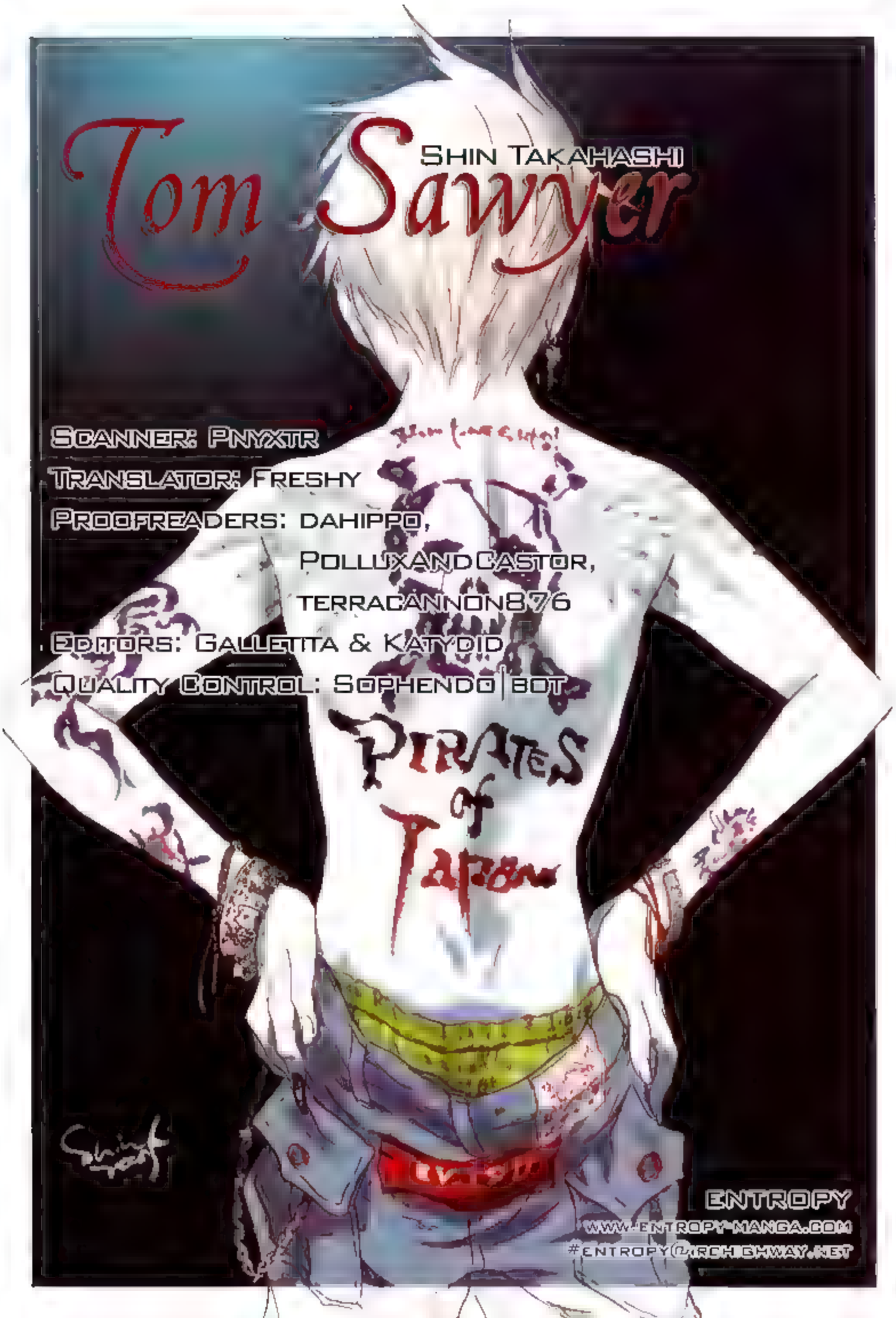
... the adventure that day ended.

I don't know whether...

... Taro and his aunt reconciled or not,

...THAT WAS PRETTY GOOD...
but...
350ml

However, that's not a sign that the troubles have ended. They'll start up again.
...I am sure it will be calm and clear the day after a storm passes.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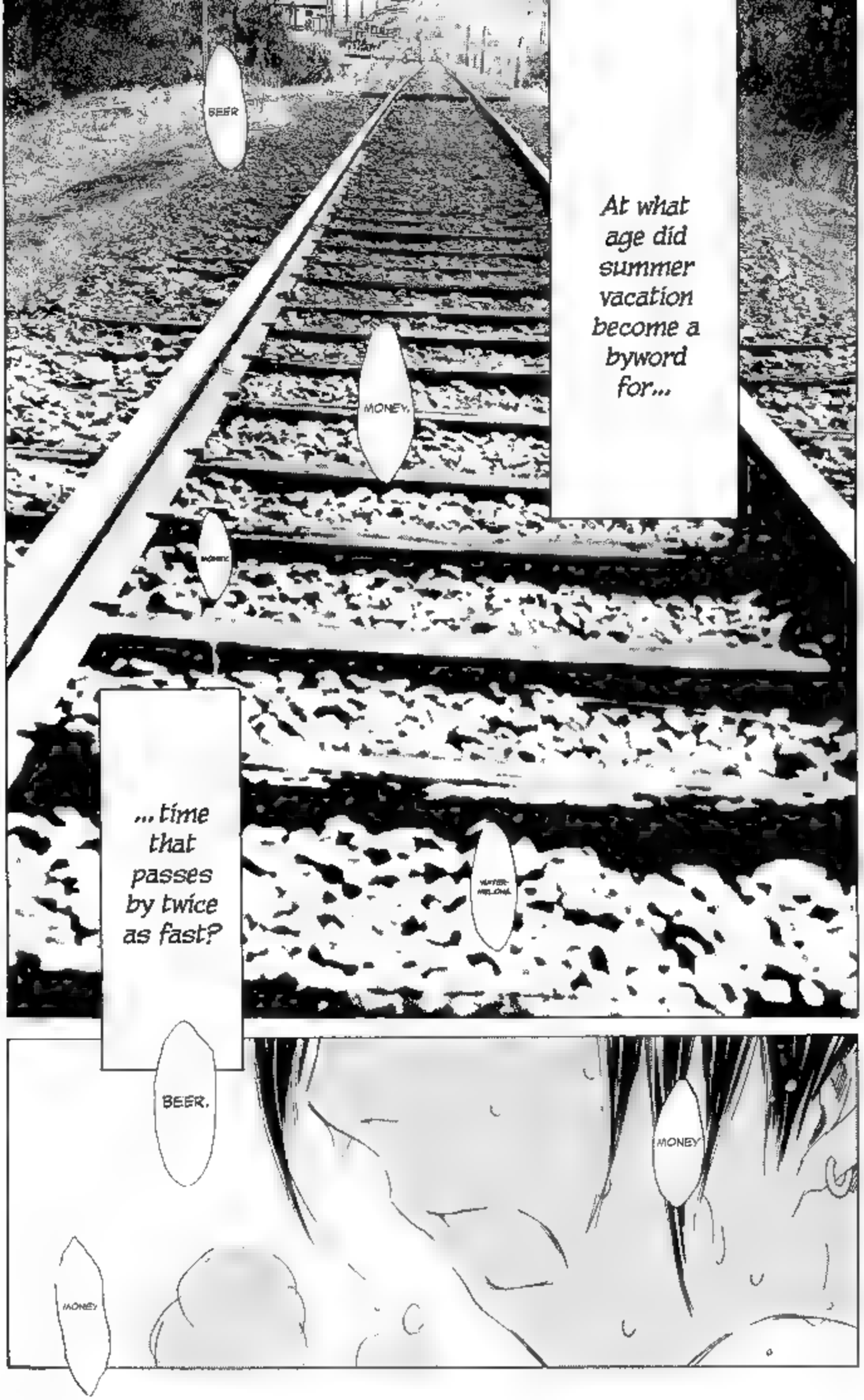
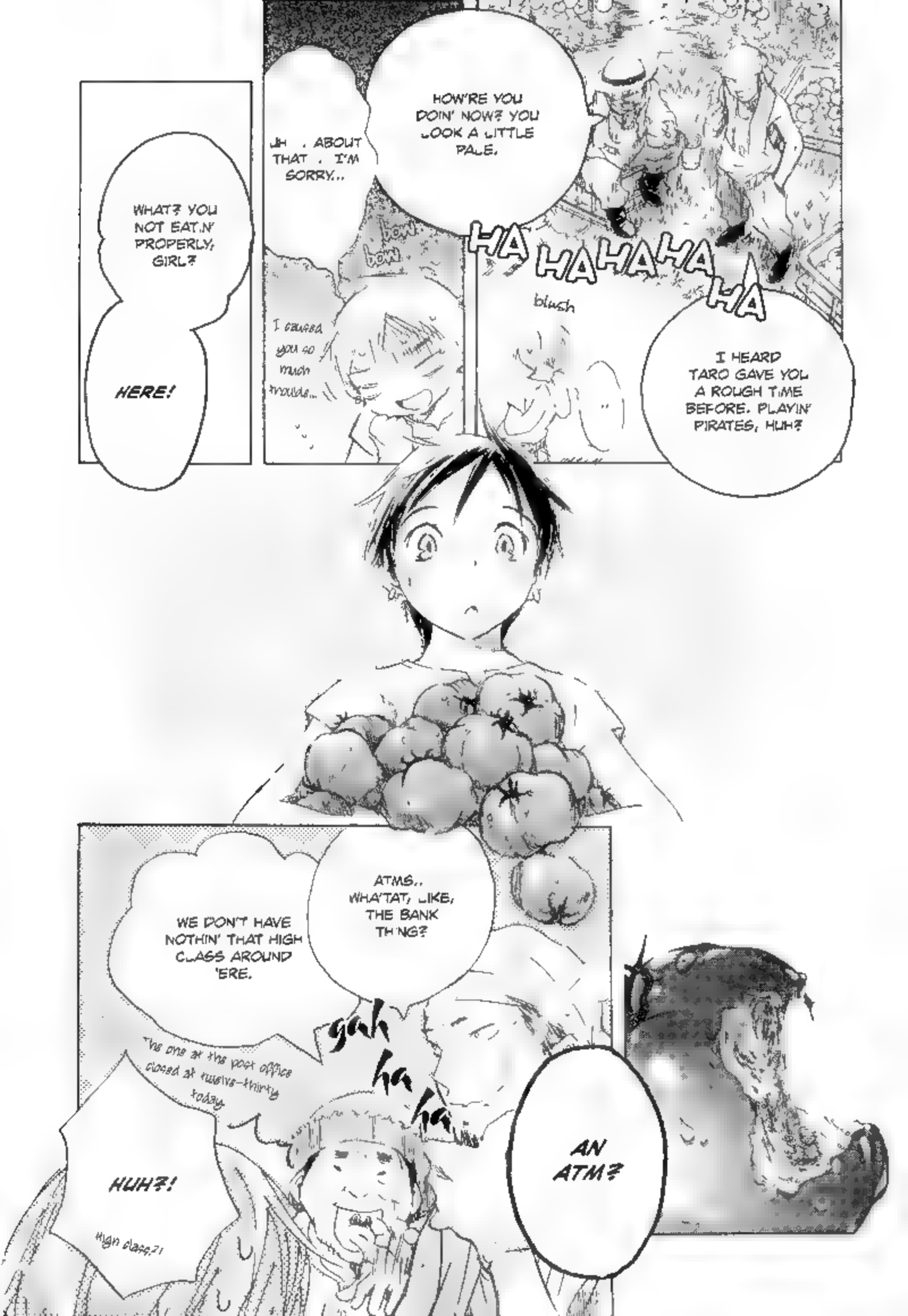
★CRIK PRESENTS!★
TOM
★SAWYER★
SHIN TAKAHASHI
Chapter 5
THE ADVENTURES OF TOM SAWYER
BY MARK TWAIN
THE NOVEL


BEER
MONEY
At what age did summer vacation become a byword for...
...time that passes by twice as fast?
BEER.
MONEY
MONEY

WATER-MELONS
OH...!
HEY!
YOU'RE THAT GAL WHO WENT MISSING!
Will it be better for me to just die?
OH...
AM I GOING TO DIE HERE...?


HOW'RE YOU DOIN' NOW? YOU LOOK A LITTLE PALE.
UH . ABOUT THAT . I'M SORRY...
I caused you so much trouble...
HA HAHAHAHA HA
blush
I HEARD TARO GAVE YOU A ROUGH TIME BEFORE. PLAYIN' PIRATES, HUH?
WHAT? YOU NOT EAT'N' PROPERLY, GIRL?
HERE!
ATMS.. WHA'TAT, LIKE, THE BANK TH'NG?
WE DON'T HAVE NOTHIN' THAT HIGH CLASS AROUND 'ERE.
gah ha ha
AN ATM?
The one at the post office closed at twelve-thirty today
HUH?!
High class?!

It's been a month since I came back to this town.

Before I knew it, I'd gotten a tan,

and I was the same color as everyone else here.

This town's heat, which has slowly seeped into my body,

is something I don't know,

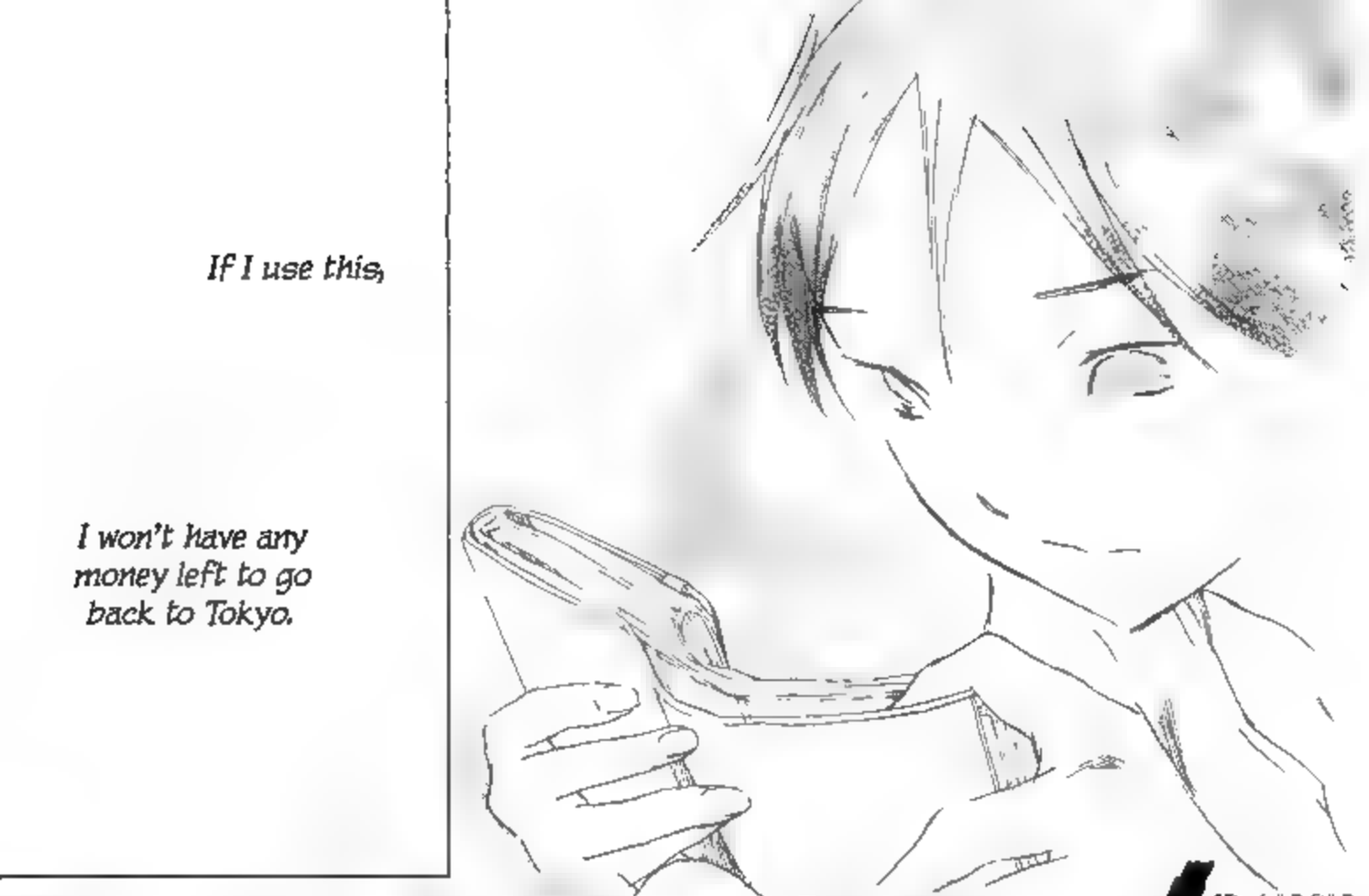
but I guess I don't mind it.

銀行
SIGH. . MAYBE I SHOULD JUST USE THIS MONEY TO GET MYSELF SOME BEER. .
SIGH
THIS MUST BE THE START OF SOMETHING AMAZING, HUH?!
☆
beep
AH HA HA HA HA
DROOP
WOW!
I'M SO LUCKY! 888 YEN!* ♡ THINGS ARE GETTING KINDA CRAZY NOW!

*ABOUT $10 USD

If I use this,

I won't have any money left to go back to Tokyo.



No matter how tough things got, I've always had enough money in my wallet to get myself back to Tokyo.

What does it mean to go home, anyway?

Is Tokyo really where I belong?
What should there be for a place to be considered somewhere you belong?
Before I knew it,
my white sketchbook had turned dark and tan just like my skin.
But I haven't been able to draw a picture
of that boy, since the first one I drew of him...

JOE 'N' NIKUYA WERE BOTH HUDDLED OVER, SHIVERIN' FROM FEAR O' THE STORM...
IT WAS TRULY A MATTER O' LIFE O' DEATH ... BUT I WAS STILL CALM. I TOLD HARU TO LISTEN TO ME 'N' LISTEN WELL. .
THE STORM WHISKED AWAY OUR TENT. .
I SAID, EVEN IF WE STAY 'ERE, DA ONLY THING WAITIN' FOR US'LL BE DEATH!
WHO'S EVER HEARD O' A PIRATE WHO FEARS DEATH? NAW GET UP 'N' RUN!
OSE
SFX: WHOAAA.

WELL, HARL DID 'ER BEST AND WORKED 'ER HARDEST UNDER MY ORDERS. SHE'S PRETTY GOOD AT DRAWING TATTOOS, TOO!
YA ALL BETTER BE NICE TO ER. .
HUMPH
AWE-SOME, PIRATE KING!!
YOU'RE SO COOL, TARO.
OH ..
HANA!
WHAT. TARO YOU STILL HAVEN'T MADE UP WITH HER YET?
Oh, no!
HUH ..?
..
TARO'S TELLING US ABOUT HIS ADVENTURES RIGHT NOW!
ABOUT WHEN HE WENT TO THE ABANDONED ISLAND~
HANA, DO YOU WANT TO PLAY IN THE WATER WITH US?
TURN
木村

HANA!
YOU TWO ARE SO STUBBORN. .
HANA WAS REALLY WORRIED ABOUT YOU...
NO WAY. SHE'S STILL HUNG UP 'BOUT THAT?!
YEAH, YOU SCARED THE WHOLE TOWN BY GOING MISSING, AND THEN YOU SUDDENLY CAME BACK AND TOLD US YOU WERE PLAYING PIRATE?!
ARE YOU JEALOUS CAUSE I'M THE TOWN HERO?
COME ON, EVERYONE WAS CALLING FOR YOU! YOU'RE SUCH A SPOIL-SPORT.

YES?!
TARO.
WELL, AH GUESS AH'LL BE GOING TREASURE-HUNTING WITH HARU TODAY..
AH MEAN, OUR VACATION'S ALMOST OVER...
grrrce grrrce
DAYUM! REALLY, YOU WOMEN!
I'VE DECIDED NOT TO TALK TO CAVEMEN LIKE YOU.
PLEASE, DON'T TALK TO ME ANY-MORE.
I WONDER IF THERE'S A WAY TO JUST MAKE THEM DO WHAT YOU WANT..
WOMEN ARE SO HARD TO HANDLE..
WHA-WHO'S GONNA TALK TO YOU, ANYWAY?!
YOU STUCK-UP!
..LIKE HARU DOES.

I'M IN!
Oh,
splash
splash
HEY

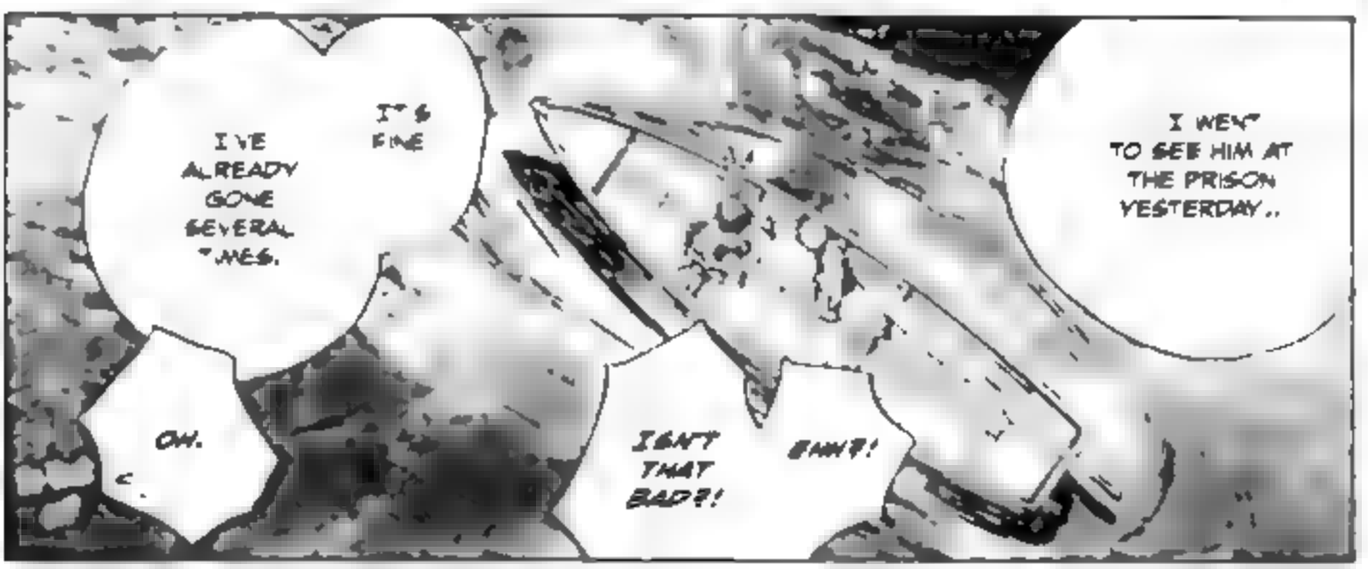
Nnnnn, well.
I'M ONLY TELLIIN' THIS GREAT TH.NG TO YOU, HARu. WHAT BAD LUCK, HUH? THE OTHERS ARE MISSIN' OUT ON A GREAT OPPORTUNITY.
Ninuga and Joe weren't home
ENOUGH.
SO?! WHERE ARE WE GOING, ANYWAY? WHAT'S YOUR GREAT IDEA?
HEH HEH...
FINE, HARU. I'LL TELL YOU. NOW THAT WE'RE OUT ON THE OCEAN, NO ONE CAN LISTEN IN ON OUR CONVERSATION...
IT'S THE RETURN OF DA PIRATE KING TARO!
WITHIN THIS 'ERE BIBLE IS DA HIDDEN MAP TO BURIED TREASURE!

I'M GOING HOME! I'M SWIMMING BACK HOME!!!
I was fooled again...
UH...
I-I'VE BEEN THINKING, HARU.
ABOUT LAST TIME WHEN WE WENT TO THAT ISLAND, .
I REALIZED THAT ISLAND...

...
THERE WERE OTHERS BESIDES US ON THAT ISLAND, WEREN'T THERE?
YOU KNEW, TOO?!
I SAW A CIGARETTE BUTT THAT WASN'T LEFT BY ME...
IT WAS A BRAND THAT I HADN'T SEEN BEFORE.
AND...
I SAW SOMETHING SHINE IN THAT RUN-DOWN PLACE WE WENT TO...
SOME LIGHT?! REALLY?! I KNEW IT!
...THIS IS OLD MAN GENZO'S BIBLE.
BUT...
...WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH TREASURE HUNTING?
..OLD MAN GENZO..
SO COULD THAT MEAN THAT IT'S RELATED TO THAT INCIDENT

"so no one from around 'ere goes
"And they told the children not to, either."

"Wait a second, you couldn't have."
"No."
"Haha, you're such a coward!"
SO, IT'S WEIRD THAT ANYONE WOULD BE ON THAT ISLAND.
ANY SANE PERSON AT LEAST.
"What is it?"
"It's wrong! The criminal isn't Old Man Genzo!"
"It was Odagiri who killed the man!"
"Huh?"


I'VE ALREADY GONE SEVERAL TIMES.
IT'S FINE
OH.
I WENT TO SEE HIM AT THE PRISON YESTERDAY..
ISN'T THAT BAD?!
HM?!

"Oh ... Taro, it's you, ain't it ..?"
BUT OLD MAN GENZO HE WAS REALLY HAPPY TO SEE ME
WHEN I GET THE COURAGE TO VISIT HIM, IT'S SAD TO SEE AN INNOCENT MAN THERE

"Ah'm so old, ah'm not gonna make it out o' 'ere alive... Ah knows it."

"... 'ey, Taro ... people t'at kill people get hung, ain't they?"

"... 'ey, Taro. Ah was stone drunk t'at nigh' 'n' don't remember nothin'."

"Only you... Ah've tak'n care o' all da kids 'ere in t'is town like they my own chil'ren,"

"but once ah end up like t'is, they all went 'n' fergot 'bout me..."

"Ah don't have a quarrel wit' nobody. God's just punishin' a poor ol' drunk fer 'is sins..."

"so t'at nobody will see you."

"Remember, sneak 'n at night."

"But Taro ... as thanks, ah'm gonna give you somethin' rea. special..."

"Ah'm mortified. Mortified."

"But ah've come to accept mah fate 'n t'is world."

FOUND IT.
"Remember, nev'r ferget da words o' da Lord."
"... 'Tis a Bible."
"Thank you, Taro. Ah'll nev'r ferget you."
ON THE TOP SHELF.
IN THE BACK ROOM.
GOUGH
WHOA
WHY WOULD HE GIVE ME SOMETHING LIKE THIS. ?

I KNEW IT.
HMM... SO, 130 STEPS TO THE WEST...
AH! LISTEN TO ME, WILL YOU?!
HEY, WAIT FOR ME!
SEE, T'IS IS THE PATH T'AT WE'RE ON, RIGHT 'ERE!
I KNEW IT! T'IS 'ERE IS A MAP O' T'IS ISLAND!
COME ON, TARO!
SHH.
WHAT IF THIS HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THAT OTHER INCIDENT...?
AW, STOP IT! ISN'T IT DANGEROUS TO BE HERE OR SOMETHING...?
...IF THIS PLACE REALLY WAS DANGEROUS, THEN WOULDN'T SOMETHING HAVE HAPPENED TO US ALREADY?
WE'LL BE FINE.. WE'RE JUST KIDS.

...IT'LL JUST LOOK LIKE SOME KIDS FOOLIN' AROUND.
Heh... Either he's got guts or...
...he's just an idiot.
IS THIS EASY?
THAT'S WEIRD I THOUGHT WE WERE HEADIN NORTH
HUH?
I'M AN ADULT YOU KNOW
YOU'RE JUST DUMB, TARO!
HEH, PRETTY IMPRESSIVE HARU.
DAMN IT, JUST GIVE IT TO ME, WILL YOU?!
HUH?

thump
The incident really freaked me out.
thump
But at the same time ... I was happy for Taro, who never cowered away from things that I would have easily ran away from.
thump
thump
I kind of felt a strange sense of self-pride...
...like I was walking alongside a friend, solving a mystery.
thump
thump
...THERE IT IS.
...WOW...

SFX: THUMP

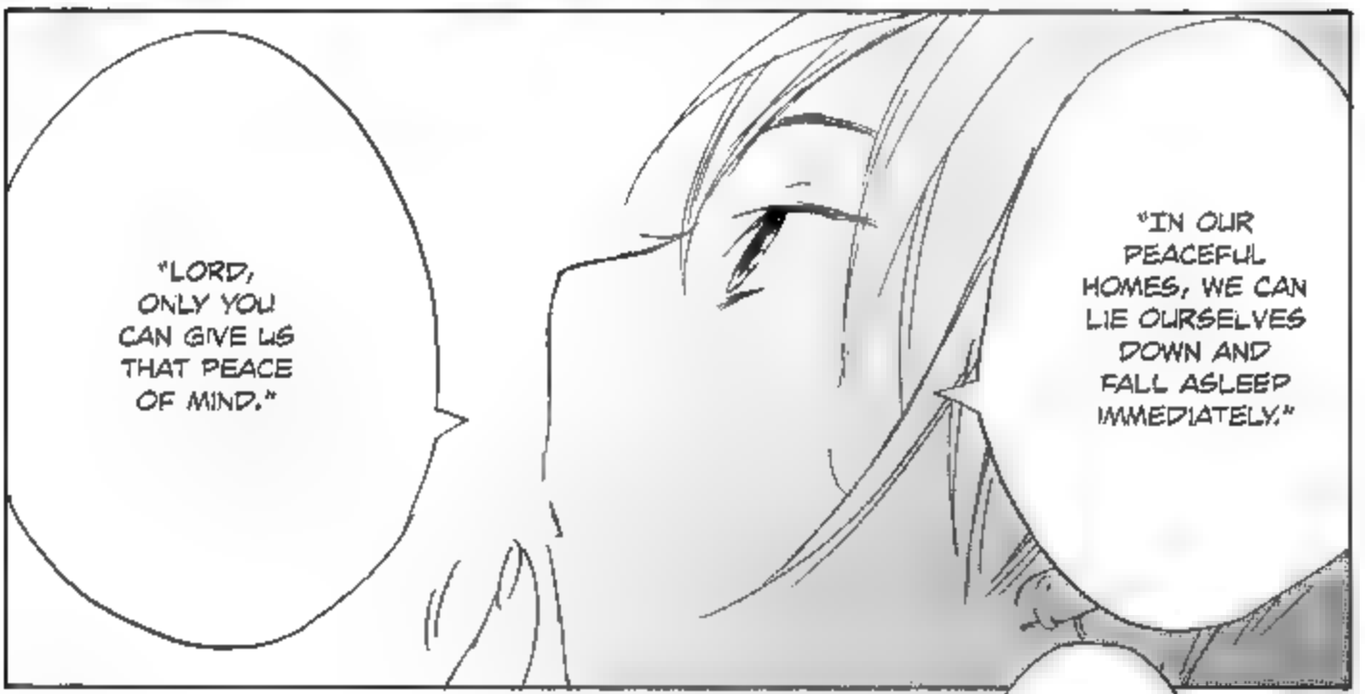
IF YOU'RE SCARED,
YOU CAN HEAD BACK, YOU KNOW.
IDIOT.
YOU THINK I'D LET YOU GO IN ALL ALONE?

LEAVE ME HERE...
GAHH!
SOME-THING JUST MOVED!
IT MOVED!!!
DON'T CLING!
IT WAS PROBABLY A MOUSE!
I'M SCARED OF MICE!
SCARED!
B-BUT, SOMETHING DANGEROUS MIGHT COME AND ... I'M
GAH ERR
YOU'RE THE MOST DANGER-OUS ONE 'ERE!
WE GOTTA ACT LIKE KIDS WHO JUST HAPPENED TO WANDER 'N'

WHAT IF THE BAD GUYS EVER FIND OUT THAT WE FOUND THIS PLACE THROUGH OLD MAN GENZO'S MAP...
WHISPER
WHISPER
A DEAD END.
Let's go home...
WAH! WAH! IT'S SO DARK AND SCARY! ENOUGH TO SATISFY A KID!
YAY! AN ADVENTURE! ADVENTURES ARE A LOT OF FUN WHEN YOU'RE A KID!
HM? IS THIS THE PLACE WE STOPPED AT LAST TIME..?
SEE HERE'S THE HOLE THAT NIKUYA MADE
HARU!
DON'T YOU THINK.
...THIS LOCK LOOKS STRANGELY NEW?

BUT, BUT—
IF ODAGIRI AND CHUMS WERE TO COME RIGHT NOW, THERE'D BE NO PLACE TO RUN...
JUST YOUR IMAGINATION, HARU, YOU REALLY ARE A COWARD.
UMM. THERE'RE NO NUMBERS WRITTEN DOWN ON THE MAP.
DID OLD MAN GENZO SAY ANYTH NG ELSE?.
NOT REALLY.
BABUMP BABUMP BABUMP BABUMP BABUMP
SHH!
SHH!! JUST THEN ... DIDN'T YOU HEAR ... A SOUND FROM FAR AWAY ?!
WHA-
WHAT?!
"...Nev'r ferget da words o' da Lord."
WELL..
"...upon us, O Lord..."
"...o' yo' face shine..."
"Let da light..."

"OUR HAPPINESS IS GREATER THAN THAT OF HAVING BOUNTIFUL HARVESTS OF GRAIN AND WINE."
"YOU HAVE FILLED OUR HEARTS WITH HAPPINESS..." ARGH, I DON'T REMEMBER...! WE RECITED IT ALL THE TIME DURING SUNDAY SCHOOL, BUT...
UH.


"LORD, ONLY YOU CAN GIVE US THAT PEACE OF MIND."
"IN OUR PEACEFUL HOMES, WE CAN LIE OURSELVES DOWN AND FALL ASLEEP IMMEDIATELY."

...EH? WHAT IS THIS?
WELL, YOU SEEM TO REMEMBER THAT OLD STUFF REALLY WELL.
HARU!
THAT'S IT!

SOUNDS RIGHT?
PSALM 4, PART 6 . . I THINK ... ? MAYBE?
POP
AWW. MY MOM USED TO REPEAT IT TO ME ALL THE TIME...
RIGHT.
THAT'S IT.
RIGHT.

0.
7.
4.
6...
GOT IT!! ON PAGE 7-4-6!!
UH,
PSALM 4, PART 6...
0-0-4-6... NO, THAT'S NOT IT...
LORD ...
O LORD ...?
"LET THE LIGHT OF YOUR FACE SHINE "
HUH?
KSH
CLICK

TH
THIS IS..?
T-THESE ARE ALL REALLY EXPENSIVE ART PIECES! AND THIS BUDDHA HERE, IT CAN'T BE...
HIROSHIGE?! YOKOYAMA TAIKAN...?!
NO WAY...
POTTERY FROM THE ANCIENT HIRADO ERA
CHAGALL AND DEGAS
WOW!
NO WAY! IS THIS A MONET PAINTING?!
TREA SURE!
T-T-TREASURE!!
ARGH. THIS IS NO GOOD. FOR ALL THIS TREASURE,
UH..
RIGHT? IN THIS SHABBY OLD PLACE LIKE THIS
TREA SURE
CAN'T BE GOOD FOR PRESERVATION RIGHT?

WE...
AWESOME!
WE ACTUALLY FOUND REAL TREASURE!!

OOOEE, T'IS IS MIGHTY FINE LOOT!
LOOK, HARU!
W'AT SHOULD AH BUY FIRST WHEN AH BECOME RICH? EVERYONE 'N TOWN'S GONNA FLIP OUT!
'N' HARU, NAW YOU CAN DRINK AS MUCH BEER AS YOU WANT, NOT T'AT WATERED-DOWN GUNK...
SFX: GSH
W'AT, W'AT'S WRONG WIT' YOU, HARU?!
TARO, LOCK THIS PLACE UP RIGHT AWAY! AND LET'S GO HOME!!
SFX: SLAM
CAW
CAW
CAW
SFX: FLAP
NGH!

CLACK
...I can hear them...
...But...
It's no use; we can't go up...
scratch
This hole...
Someone's definitely here...!
EY, T'IS HOLE!!
IT'S DA ONE NIKUYA MADE LAST TIME WE CAME 'ERE!
MAN, T'AT REALLY WAS A RIOT!
"Owww Help me."
"Nikuya! What are you doing?"

SFX. KICK
GET IN THE HOLE!
SHUT UP!
About this hole...
This hole...
WHOOSH
The hole?
CLATTER CLATTER
SHH!
SFX. CREAK
SHOULD LEAD US OUT.
twitch
twitch
T'AT WAS MEAN, HARU...
Hmph! Ngh!
THUD
SCRAPE
IT'S MUCH MORE DANGEROUS TO COME HERE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY.
THAT'S BECAUSE IT WAS IN THE MIDDLE O' THE NIGHT, IN AN ABANDONED PLACE.
COME ON, COWARD. OUR LAST JOB WAS EVEN MORE DANGEROUS, BUT WE GOT AWAY WITH IT JUST FINE!
DANGEROUS?
SCRAPE
HEY, NO MATTER HOW I THINK ABOUT IT, I'VE GOT A BAD FEELIN' ABOUT WHAT OUR JOB THIS TIME IS...
IT'S DANGER-OUS,
THUD
THUD

FLAKE
HEY, LET'S JUST FORGET ABOUT THIS ONE.
THE TV PEOPLE ARE ALL OVER THIS TOWN 'CAUSE OF THOSE DAMN KIDS AND THAT MURDER STORY..
COULDN'T GET IN EVEN IF WE WANTED TO.
I KNOW, BUT LAST TIME WE TRIED TO COME, THOSE ANNOYING BRATS WERE AROUND.
FLAKE
THUD THUD
SHUT UP!
THUMP
FLAKE
WE CAN CHANGE OUR HQ AFTER THAT!
DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME BITCHIN' AND MOANIN'. FOCUS ON SELLING THESE TO A STOLEN GOODS BROKER!
Stolen goods...!
FLAKE

"Of course not, Stupid!"

"But I bet this'll make top news."

"Then, even if we take the treasure, it won't be..."

"It means that everything in this room—the pot, the paintings, the buddhas—they've all been stolen.

"W-what's that supposed to mean, Haru?"

"Then ... then, if we can find a way to show everyone where the treasure is hidden...!"

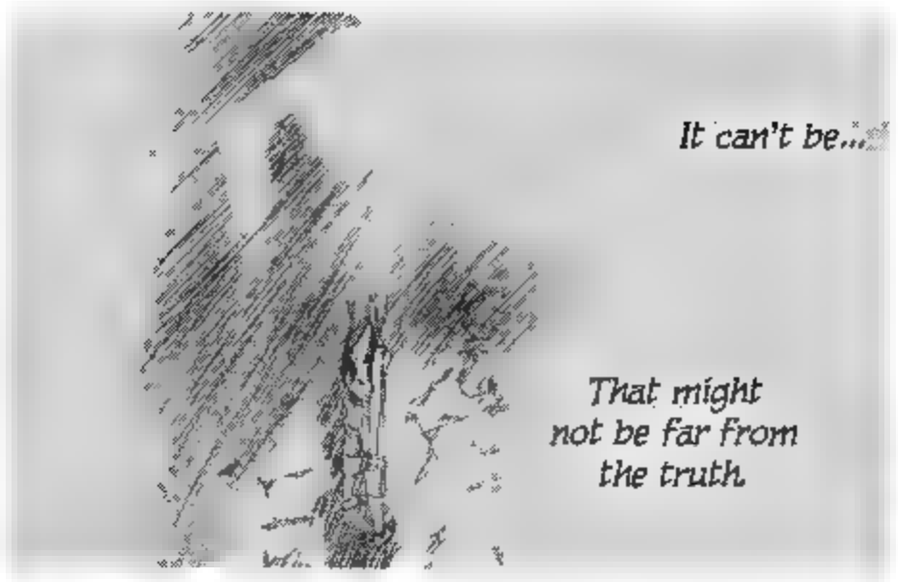
"Of course! These are all famous art pieces. Haven't you seen the news lately about the theft of the country's most prized buddha?"

"Newsl?"

?!

By "those damn kids," he means...

HUMPH BECAUSE OF THOSE DAMN KIDS, WE CAN'T RELY ON THIS PLACE TO BE SAFE ANYMORE



IT WAS THE PERFECT PLACE TO HIDE OUR STUFF, TOO!

AND TO THINK, NONE OF THE VILLAGERS EVER WANDERED N HERE 'CAUSE OF THE RUMORS ABOUT IT BEING A HUMAN TESTING FACILITY AND WAREHOUSE FOR THE A-BOMB SURVIVORS.

"Damn kids...?"

"Other job?"

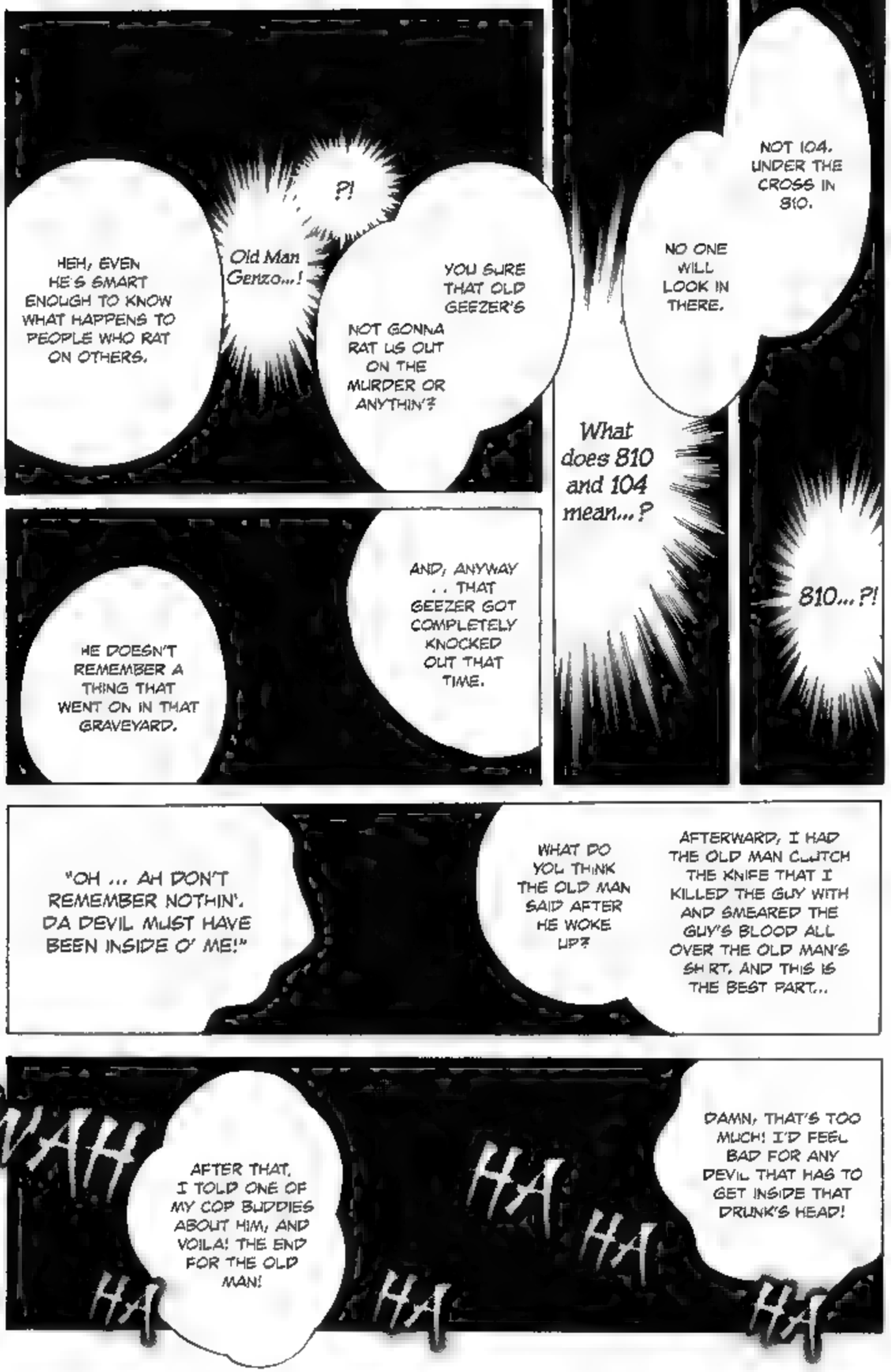
WELL, ANYWAY, ONCE WE SELL ALL OF THIS, WE'LL HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO SPEND FOR A WHILE... THAT MEANS WE WON'T HAVE TO DO THAT OTHER JOB, TOO, RIGHT?

YOU'RE QUITE THE DENSE ONE, AIN'T CHA? WE'RE NOT IN IT JUST TO STEAL!

WE NEED TO GET REVENGE ON THOSE GUYS, DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

SO, WHERE ARE WE TAKING THIS TO? 104?

"... Those guys...?"


HEH, EVEN HE'S SMART ENOUGH TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENS TO PEOPLE WHO RAT ON OTHERS.
?!
Old Man Genzo...!
YOU SURE THAT OLD GEEZER'S NOT GONNA RAT US OUT ON THE MURDER OR ANYTHIN'?
NOT 104. UNDER THE CROSS IN 810.
NO ONE WILL LOOK IN THERE.
What does 810 and 104 mean...?
810...?!
HE DOESN'T REMEMBER A THING THAT WENT ON IN THAT GRAVEYARD.
AND, ANYWAY . . THAT GEEZER GOT COMPLETELY KNOCKED OUT THAT TIME.
"OH ... AH DON'T REMEMBER NOTHIN'. DA DEVIL MUST HAVE BEEN INSIDE O' ME!"
WHAT DO YOU THINK THE OLD MAN SAID AFTER HE WOKE UP?
AFTERWARD, I HAD THE OLD MAN CLUTCH THE KNIFE THAT I KILLED THE GUY WITH AND SMEARED THE GUY'S BLOOD ALL OVER THE OLD MAN'S SHIRT. AND THIS IS THE BEST PART...
WAH HA HA
AFTER THAT, I TOLD ONE OF MY COP BUDDIES ABOUT HIM, AND VOILA! THE END FOR THE OLD MAN!
HA HA HA
DAMN, THAT'S TOO MUCH! I'D FEEL BAD FOR ANY DEVIL THAT HAS TO GET INSIDE THAT DRUNK'S HEAD!

We kept completely quiet as we listened to the criminals' horrible story.

GAH HAHA HAHA HAHAHA HA

ALL RIGHT, LET'S GET MOVIN' BEFORE IT GETS DARK.

HE'S HOPE-LESS.

GENZO'S SO OLD AND IS IN THERE AS A MURDERER. HE'S PROBABLY GONNA DIE IN THERE!

We couldn't get up or talk for a while, even after they were long gone...

...and where our skin met was completely drenched with sweat, but...

Splash
... it wasn't completely out of fear or desperation. At least, that's what I thought.
Splash

YEAH, IT WAS SOME AMAZING TREASURE, HUH...
THAT WAS SOME TREASURE .

YOU CAN HEAD BACK IF YOU'RE SCARED, YOU KNOW.
NO WAY. I'M DEFINITELY GOING TO GET IT BACK.

After that day, we started looking for where "810" might be located.

Was it a telephone number...
...a hotel room number, a license plate for a car?
We took turns keeping a close watch on Odagiri's shop...
...as if we were investigating him like detectives...
...as if we were in a dream, forgetting to eat and sleep.

We were like children, scrambling to savor the dwindling days of summer vacation.

SINCE WE WERE [redacted] TO FIND THE TREASURE, I ALMOST FORGOT. BUT REMEMBER HOW THOSE GUYS WERE TALKING ABOUT GETTING REVENGE, BACK IN THEIR HQ?
I WONDER WHO "THOSE GUYS" ARE.

SH
A
A
A
A
REVENGE, HUH...
HEY, DON'T YOU THINK THAT THAT MIGHT BE A HINT?
Hey, that's my corn.
OH, YEAH... WELL, I GUESS THEY HAVE THEIR OWN ISSUES, HUH?
They are bad guys.
If it was me, I wouldn't let them live...
FOR EXAMPLE, WITNESSES TO THE CRIME OTHER THAN US MIGHT EXIST AND TALKED TO THE POLICE ABOUT IT!
COULD THOSE GUYS BE PLANNING ANOTHER MURDER, THOUGH...?
HE SHOULD BE FINE. HE IS LOCKED UP AFTER ALL.
HOW WOULD YOU KNOW?!
AHAHAHA
NO WAY!
HEY, HARU. YOU THINK OLD MAN GENZO'S ALL RIGHT?
T'AT'S W'AT DA POLICE SAID!
'CAUSE!

IT'S HIM!!
COUGH
Augh, groggg!
HUH?
THE TRUTH IS~! BACK WHEN WE RETURNED FROM THAT ISLAND,
I KINDA ASKED THE POLICEMAN SOME QUESTIONS...
H-HUH?!
...ABOUT THE REAL CRIMINALS AND THE TRUTH BEHIND THE CRIME!
HE KEPT ON TELLING ME THAT THERE WERE NO WITNESSES. HE THINKS I'M JUST FOOLING AROUND OR SOMETHING, JEEZ...
I-IT~
blab
IT~
blab
HE DIDN'T CRACK SO EASILY, EVEN AFTER I TOLD HIM THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER AND THAT I WAS A WITNESS TO THE CRIME...
I-IT~
blab
HIM!
HUH? HUH?! REALLY?
IT'S US! THE WITNESSES, IT'S US! THE POLICE LEAKED THE INFORMATION!
H-HUH?!
But they're the cops!

LOOK, DIDN'T THAT GUY SAY THAT HE HAD BUDDIES IN THE POLICE?!
BESIDES!
YOU JUST SAID THE POLICE ARE THE ONES WHO TAKE CARE OF STOLEN GOODS!!
REALIZE
DIDN'T WE PROMISE
NOT TO TALK?!
HOW COULD YOU GO OFF AND DO SOMTHING LIKE THAT! WHY DID YOU TALK?! WE PROMISED!
STOP FOOLING AROUND!!
I KNOW A WAY TO GET 'N, WHERE THE FENCE'S BROKEN. .
OH ... HEH ... HOW 'BOUT WE GO HIDE 'N A CAVE 'N YATSUKAMA MOUNTAIN 'TIL EVERYTHIN' CALMS DOWN, HARU?

SFX: SHAAA
BUT I WANTED TO TALK WITH SOMEONE 'BOUT IT!!
I-IT'S 'CAUSE WHENEVER I TRIED TO DISCUSS THE CRIME WITH YOU, ALL YOU'LL SAY IS, "I DON'T KNOW. I DON'T KNOW."
THERE'S ONLY SO MUCH FRIGHTENING STUFF THAT I CAN WITHSTAND.
AT HOME, I'D HAVE NIGHTMARES ALL THE TIME.
AFTER THAT THING, I NEVER GOT ANY SLEEP.

SO IT'S JUST NATURAL ..
EVER SINCE I CAME TO THIS TOWN ..
IS A GOOD GUY.
BUT OLD MAN GENZO
RIGHT?!
AT SCHOOL WE TALKED 'BOUT CURRENT EVENTS, BUT I ONLY GOT TO TALK 'BOUT IT ONCE!!
SHOULD NOT HAVE TALKED.
NOT EVEN ONCE
BUT-
AND WHEN MOM DIDN'T RETURN, HE WOULD ALSO HAVE ... FRIED FISH FOR ME TO EAT,
FOR ME, OLD MAN GENZO WAS THE ONLY ONE THERE WHEN MOM HAD OTHER THINGS TO DO...
IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING!!
HE'LL BE FREED ONCE WE TALK ABOUT THE MURDER.
FOR SURE!!
BUT!! I DON'T REALLY KNOW, BUT IF THEY HAVE A TRIAL, WE'LL BE CALLED ON TO TESTIFY.
BUT!!
TAUGHT ME THE BEST PLACES TO FISH!!
THREADED MY FISHING LINES,
FOR ME, HE FIXED MY KITE,

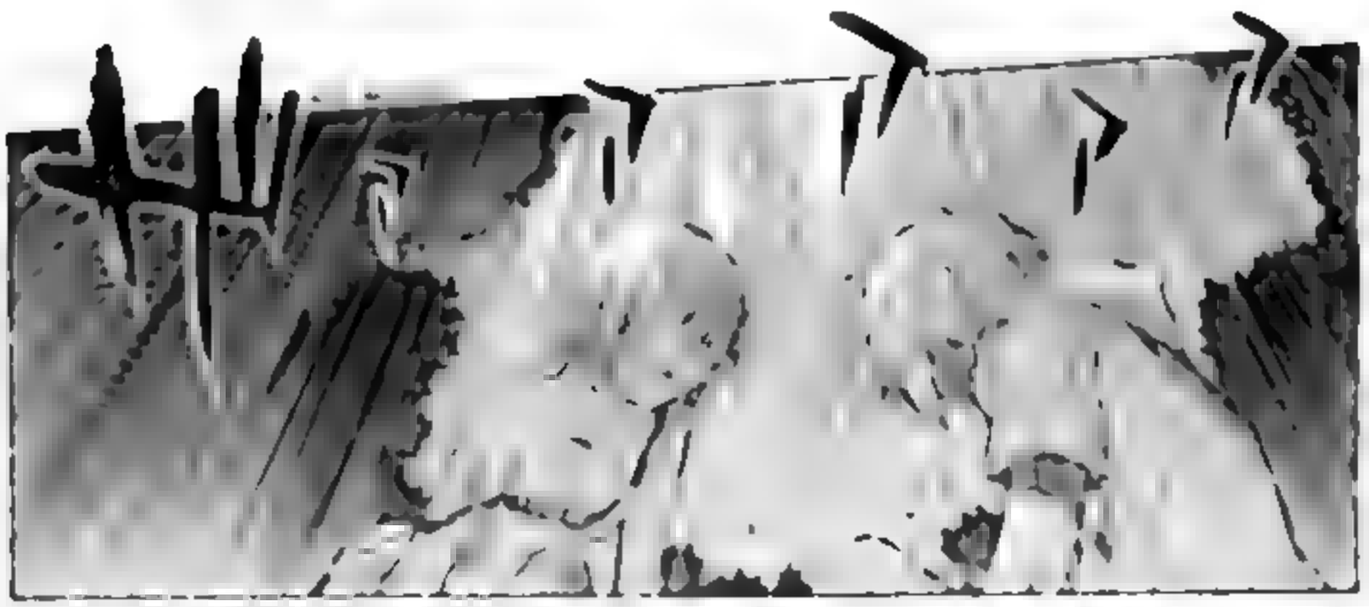
BESIDES, WE PRACTICALLY DON'T EVER HANG OUT WITH OLD MAN GENZO ANYMORE, RIGHT?!
BUT...!
BUT, IF THINGS GO WRONG
AND ODAGIRI IS FOUND TO BE INNOCENT,
RIGHT?!
ISN'T THAT RIGHT?!
RIGHT! HE JUST WON'T TEACH YOU HOW TO FISH ANYMORE...
THEN HOW WOULD HE TREAT US?!
SHAAAA

In that single moment, Taro...

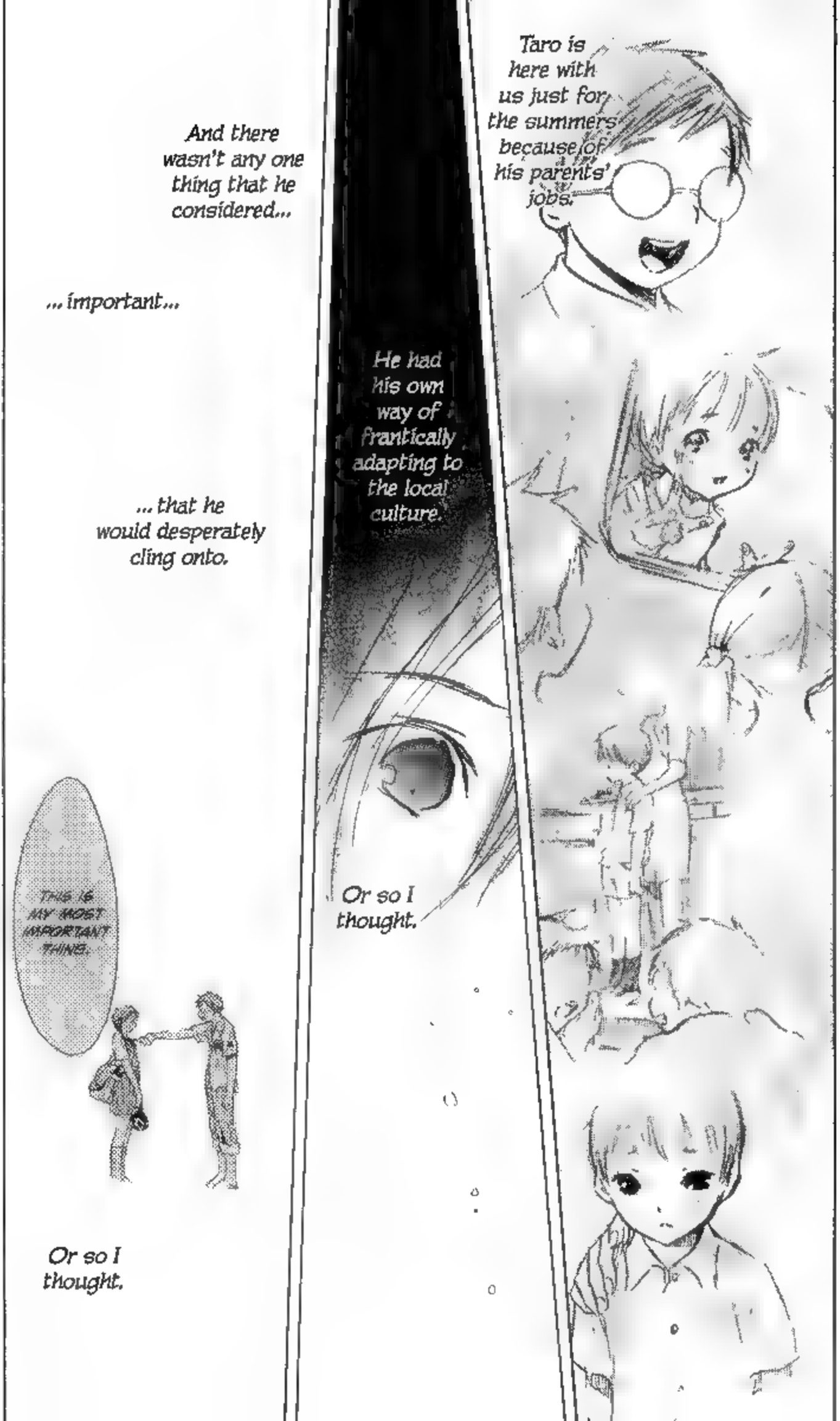
... looked at me as if he had just experienced...

... the saddest thing in the world...

... and hung his head.



I didn't notice it,
CAN YOU TURN YOUR BACK
ON A PERSON LIKE THAT?!
EVERYONE! THEY'RE ALL GOOD PEOPLE!!
OR SHOULD WE STAND UP FOR THEM?!
The accent that was thicker than even the local kids'.
but the local accent suddenly disappeared from the boy's speech.
The accent he wouldn't fix even if he was made fun of or even if his girlfriend had told him to fix it countless times.


Taro is here with us just for the summers because of his parents' jobs.
He had his own way of frantically adapting to the local culture.
Or so I thought.
And there wasn't any one thing that he considered...
...important...
...that he would desperately cling onto.
THIS IS MY MOST IMPORTANT THING.
Or so I thought.

I COULDN'T LET THE OLD MAN JUST DIE IN THERE
... and was willing to die.
Finally ...
Taro's final words were that he had broken the promise...

...I...

...I can't help it... I'm an adult.

"You're always like that, Haru."

Where am I...

...just wandering about to...?

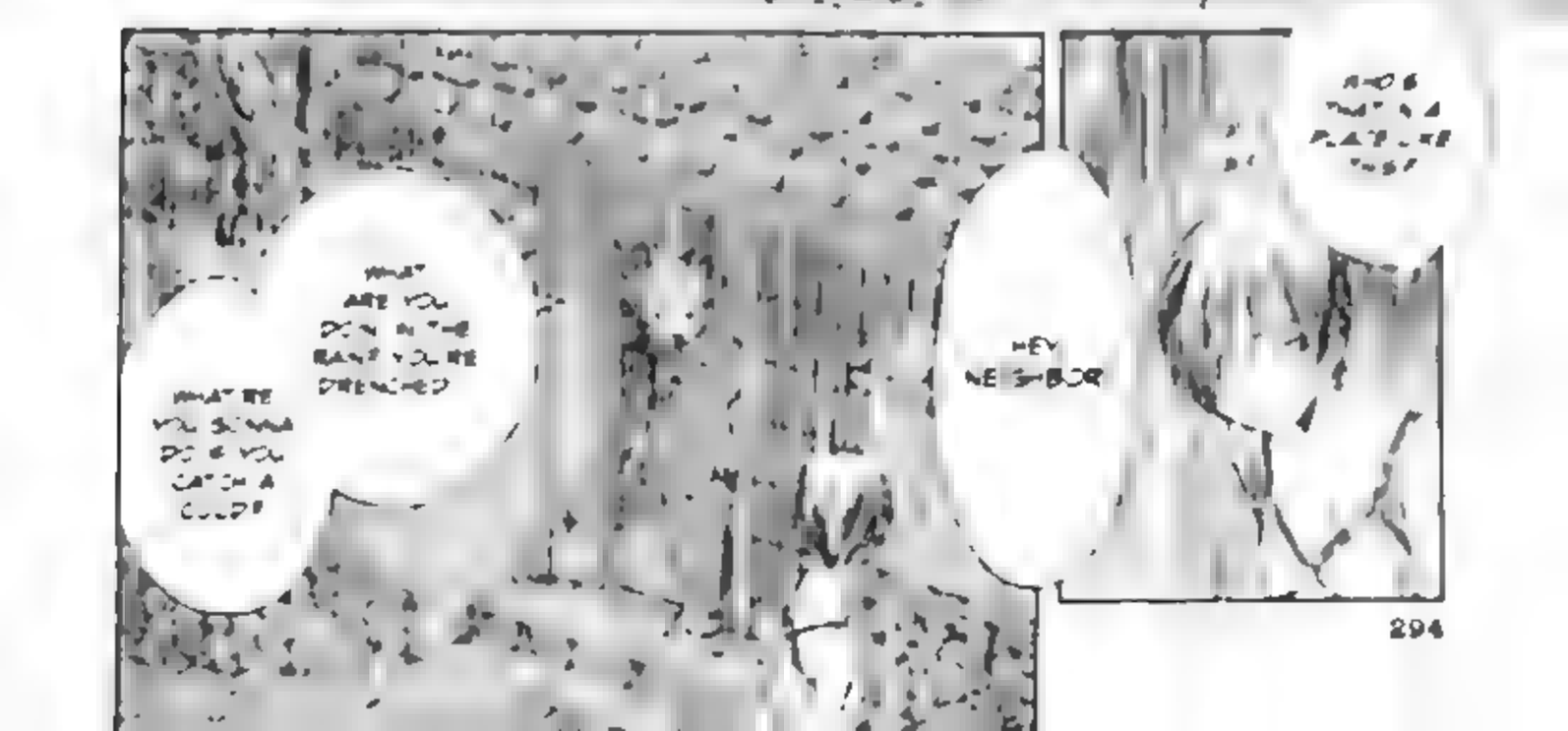
What am I doing...?

TREMBLE

ACHOO!

HUFF

I can always get out of this town, especially when I make a lot of money
I have always had just enough money for me to do what I want to do
It's all right. It's going to be all right
I'm an adult. What am I doing ..?
bad
bad


WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THE RAIN? YOU'RE DRENCHED
WHAT WE WOULD DO IF YOU CAUGHT A COLD?
HEY NEIGHBOR
AND IS THAT A PLAYMATE TOO?

Why did I come back to a town like this?

SFX SHAAA
It's their...!
This...
This...
"Do you always use this?"
"Don't you have any other brands?"
"Hey, Haru."
"Uh..."
Why ... in front of my house...?!
I'M GOING INTO HIDING FOR A WHILE...
SIGH

WHAT HAPPENED?!
What now?
HUH?
DAISY

THIS MIGHT BE THE LAST TIME WE MEET.
DON'T ASK ME FOR REASONS. .

FOR EVERYTHING.
. THANKS. .

. I'LL PUT THEM AND YOU IN DANGER, HANA.

OH OH, OK, MOM!
HANA, IF YOUR FRIEND IS HERE, HAVE THEM COME INSIDE.
WAIT.
I'M GONNA GO.
IF I'M HERE, YOUR FAMILY

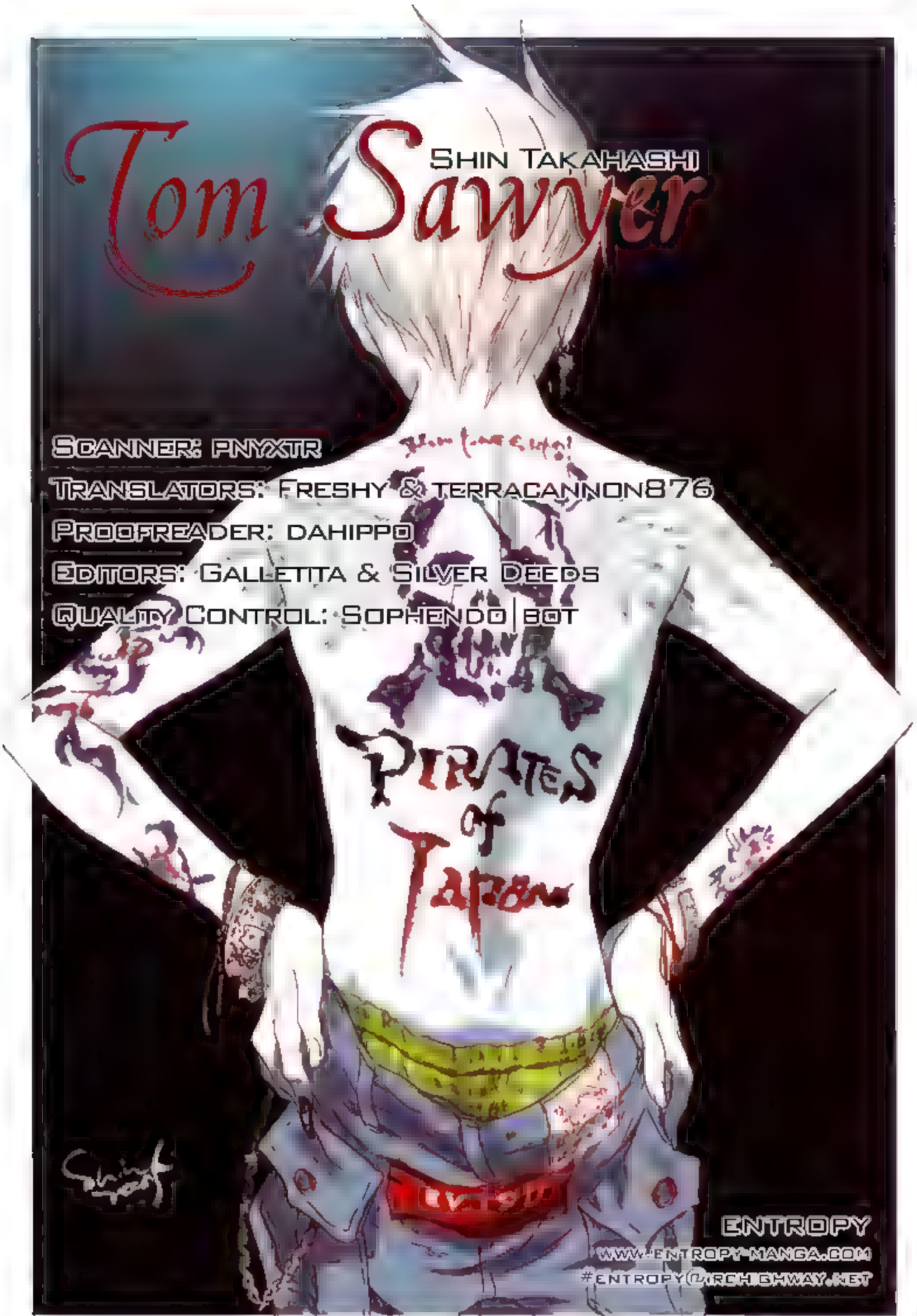
I SAID, I'M GOING!
TAKE ME WITH YOU!
WHA-

WAIT A SECOND! I'LL GO GET MY THINGS READY!
STUPID! WE MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO COME BACK...

Seriously, women are always...
STUPID... THERE'S NO TIME...
THAT WAS FAST!
SORRY FOR KEEPING YOU WAITING!

WHAT'S WRONG, HANA? IT'S RAINING OUTSIDE; WHAT ABOUT YOUR FRIEND?
Am I... Am I their next target...?
No... No way...
How did this happen...?
I have to run...
I need to get away.

Why did I come back to this town...?
BAD NEWS!
I KNOW THE CLIFFS IN YATSUKAMA MOUNTAIN COLLAPSED.
I WAS JUST TALKING ABOUT IT WITH THE OTHER MEN. THANKFULLY, THERE WERE NO HOUSES OVER THERE.
THE SOIL MUST HAVE GOTTEN LOOSE BECAUSE OF THE TYPHOON WE HAD RECENTLY.
THAT'S NOT IT! SOMETHING EVEN WORSE!
TAKAGI'S LITTLE GIRL'S GONE MISSING!
SHE'S OUT IN A STORM LIKE THIS?!
AND GRANNY URAYAMA SAID..
. THAT SHE SAW TARO AND A GIRL .
...HEADING TOWARD THE MOUNTAINS, WITHOUT EVEN AN UMBRELLA.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TARO!!
HANA!!

YOU TWO, CALM DOWN .. GET AN UMBRELLA. .
Ohhh, Mommy just thought that you were in your room wit' your friend...
Ohhh, Auntie just thought that you were out late, playin' again...
SFX: SHAAA
SFX: SHAAAA

IN THIS RAIN, I DON'T THINK WE'LL BE ABLE TO GO LOOK FOR THEM TODAY..
WELL .. THE LADY WHO TOLD ME WAS A NINETY-YEAR-OLD WOMAN ..

ARE YOU SURE IT WAS TARO AND THE GIRL?
ARE YOU SURE THEY HEADED TOWARD THE MOUNTAIN?
SFX: WAHHH

SFX: SHAAAAAA
TOM SAWYER
Shin Takahashi
Chapter 6

...Wait...
...We...?
AH.
I have to get away. I have to get away from this town...
We're the ones being targeted...
Go ...?
..I.. FORGOT MY SKETCHBOOK..
IN THE HOUSE...
OH, NO...
I-I WAS N SUCH A RUSH ..
...I have to...
...go back, though...

SCREECH
HEADIN' BACK ALREADY?
YOU DIDN'T FORGET ANYTHING, DID YA?
ALL RIGHT. TICKET PLEASE.
ARE YOU A STUDENT? I SEE, SO YOUR SUMMER VACATION'S ALMOST OVER, HUH?
YOU CAME HERE ON THIS TRAIN EARLIER 'N THE SUMMER, DIDN'T YA?
HUH?
SFX PSSH

I DID!
Those guys might be waiting for me at my house..
What am I doing..?
But what about my drawings...?
I can always...
...always draw a new one. ...I can draw...
...get a new sketchbook.

Hurry, hurry... What am I doing...?

But ... they can always come back and finish what they started...

Did they give up because I wasn't home?

THE TWO OF US VOW TO FOREVER KEEP THIS MATTER A SECRET. IF WE EVER HAPPEN TO BREAK THIS OATH, MAY WE BE STRUCK DEAD IN OUR TRACKS.
TARO HAR
SHOCKED

There's no mistake...
They're here...!
This voice...
TH
JMP

I could hear those murdering criminals' voices over the pouring rain.
Even though I could only hear scattered words, I clearly heard the words "grudge" ... "those two" ... "revenge" ... "tonight"...
THUMP THUMP THUMP

I started running.

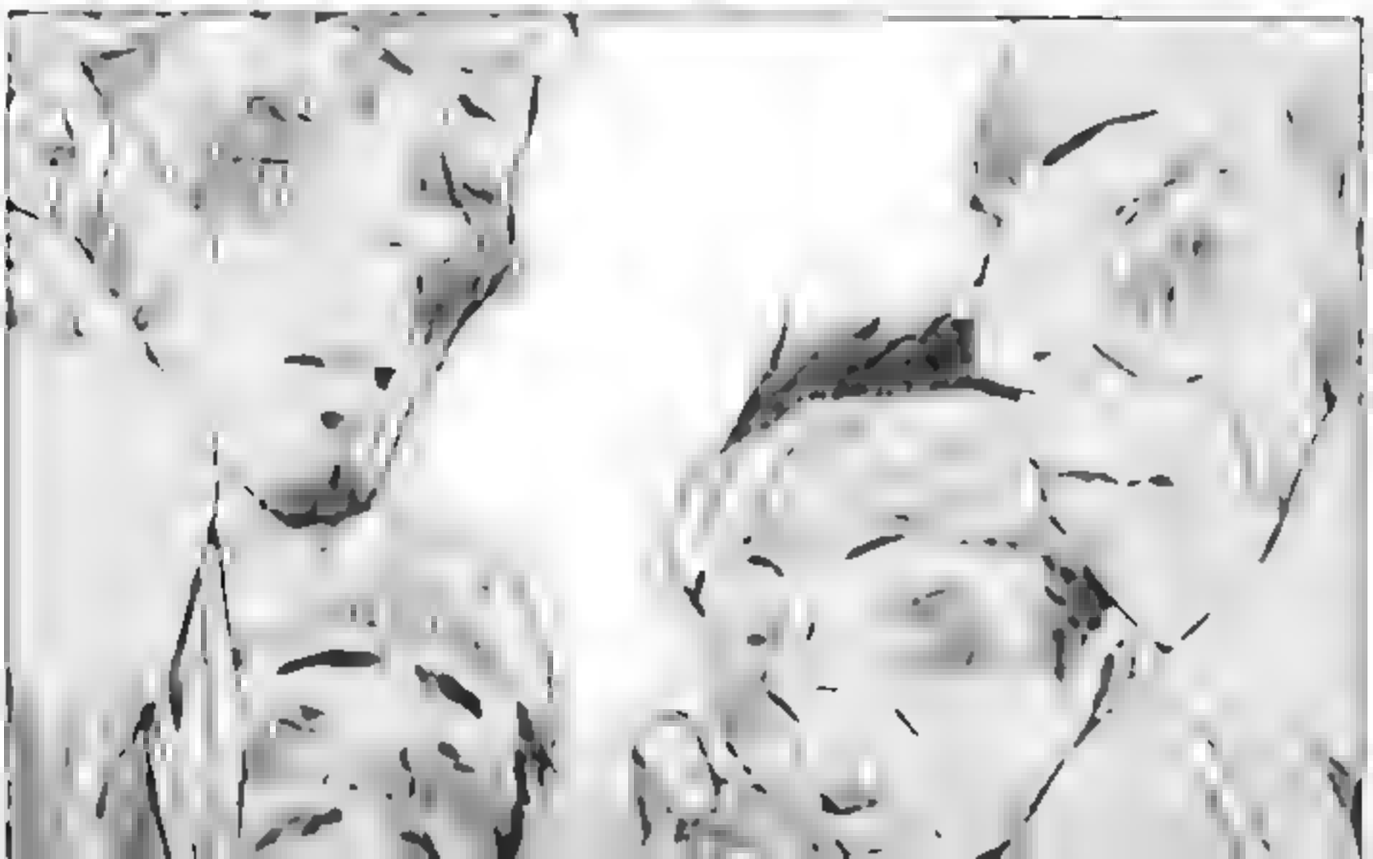
"I won't kill 'em... At least, not the girl..."

"...but cutting off her ears and nose and tyin' her to a post is enough, right...?"

"...It won't be my fault if she dies from losin' too much blood."

PANT
I didn't think about what would happen or about the fear that had paralyzed me earlier..
I just blindly kept on running
PANT

Please help Taro!!
The murderers are here!!



HANA!
TARO, YOU'RE TERRIBLE!! (^▽^)
Ha ha ha! ♡
カリズ SFX PUNCH
OH, YOU-! (><)
すっかあ
♡あ、
SFX SAHHH
RIGHT?. NOT EVEN TOURISTS COME TO THIS SIDE CAVERN. IT'S MY SECRET HIDEOUT.
I WAS THINK NG OF MAKING IT MY HIDEAWAY FOR WHEN I BECOME A BANDIT!
WHOA, AMAZING!
The Great Stone Pillar
IT'S SO PRETTY.
Nationally Declared Natural Monument • Do Not Damage or Collect Natural Resources

SFX: CRUMBLE
Gahhh!
WH-
WHAT WAS THAT?
DON'T WORRY. IT WAS PROBABLY JUST LIGHTNING.
LIGHTNING.
BUT
WE'RE IN A CAVE, SO THE SOUND BOUNCES OFF THE WALLS AND MAKES IT SOUND LOUDER.
REALLY?
REALLY.
故障中
...even from murderers...
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, I'LL PROTECT YOU...
From lightning, from storms...
...from loneliness...
TARO..
MURDERERS?!
OH, THIS IS TOO MUCH!!
BWA HA HA HA HA!!
大漁食堂
Oh... This probably wasn't the right place to say that
SFX: GAH HA HA HA HA HA

U-UM ... MY HOUSE ... IT'S CALLED RYUUZOUJI...
IT'S THE ONE BEHIND THE BIG MANSION ... AND THERE WERE BAD PEOPLE SURROUNDING IT EARLIER...
THEY SAID THEY WANTED "REVENGE .."
THEY SAID THEY'D DO IT "TONIGHT..."
SFX. GAH HA HA HA
ぎゃ,は,は,は,
ARE YOU! PLAYING GANGSTER NOW INSTEAD OF PLAYING PIRATES WITH TARO?
... UH ...
DON'T BE STUPID! OUR TOWN JUST HAD A MURDER CASE A MONTH AGO! THAT'S NOT FUNNY, EVEN IF IT'S A JOKE! YOU'RE OLD ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT!
...WE ... SAW IT HAPPEN...
OH..
HA HA. .
GULP
I'M SORRY ..

THE NIGHT THE MURDER HAPPENED WE WERE AT THE CEMETERY.
CAT?!
DOIN' WHAT?
BURYING
OUR CAT
MY DEAD MOTHER SHE USED TO TAKE CARE OF ~
IT WAS THE ONLY ONE
THAT REMEMBERED WHO I WAS IN THIS TOWN

MY PROOF IS THAT CAT...
WE BURIED IT UNDER-NEATH A BIG SYCA-MORE TREE AT AROUND MIDNIGHT... THEN, A COUPLE MINUTES LATER,
WE HEARD VOICES SEVERAL METERS AWAY. .
A-AND WE SAW SOMEONE GETTING KILLED.. WE JUST WATCHED, HOLDING OUR BREATHS.
THE ONE HOLDING THE BLOODY KNIFE, NEXT TO THE CORPSE,
WAS "ODAGIRI..."
...OLD MAN GENZO WASN'T THERE...
I'M SORRY..
I . I'M SO SORRY . . FOR NOT TELLING EVERYONE SOONER..
I'M SORRY ...

SFX: SCRAPE
WHOA!
WAIT!
PLEASE
STAGGER
HELP TARO..
SFX: SHATTER
UH, I'M ALREADY GOING OUT WITH NORI, WHO WORKS IN JA...
PUSH
I'M SORRY..
SOB
.. OF THE COLD-BLOODED MURDER-ERS ..
OF TROUBLE
OF REALITY
OF THE MURDER
I WAS .. SO SCARED..
I WAS SCARED...
SOB
.OF THE PEOPLE IN THIS TOWN .
SO, WHY'RE YA ALL LOAFIN' AROUND?

GO!
めし

W o o o o o o
TRUST THEM. THEY'RE FOOLS, BUT THEY'RE SEAMEN.
PLEASE
HELP TARO
A jerk.
Charge them extra.
Believe in them.
M: PUT THE COST OF DAMAGES ONTO EVERYONE'S BILL!
Oh!

HERE!
♡
Taro...
I'm sorry... I said it ... too...

I HAVE KOALA-SHAPED COOKIES, MINI PIES, STRAWBERRY-FLAVORED POCKY, CRACKERS, ANGEL PIES, SOFT-BAKED COOKIES...
I HAVE A LOT!
WHOA. THANKS!
SNACKS.
GO, EVERYTHING IN THERE'S.
That bag...
Snacks.
RIP
..IT'S SO QUIET...

MM?
IT'S NOTHING.
VACATION'S ALMOST OVER.
AFTER IT ENDS, I ALWAYS WONDER WHAT WAS THE POINT OF SUMMER VACATION.
ONCE SUMMER'S OVER, YOU'RE...
...GONNA GO BACK OVER THERE, AREN'T YOU?
...IT'S WHAT I CHOSE FOR MYSELF. I DON'T REGRET IT.
I'M THE ONE WHO SAID THAT I WOULD STAY IN JAPAN WHEN MY MOM IS OUT OF THE COUNTRY...
I LIKE MY FRIENDS OVER THERE, BUT I LIKE THIS TOWN AND EVERYONE IN IT, TOO ... SO IT'S ALWAYS SAD TO LEAVE BUT I DON'T THINK THAT'S NECESSARILY A BAD THING. .
BUT SOMEDAY—
NICE!
HEY!
I HAVE SOME CRISPY STICKS! AND SOME CHOCOLATE STICKS! AND BISCUITS, GUMMIES, CRACKERS, AND SOME VINEGARED SEAWEED!
I'LL JUST HELP MYSELF!

IT'S SWEET

HANA.

MM?

...I HAVE ONE MORE SECRET.. DO YOU PROMISE NOT TO FREAK OUT?

..OK..

TH LMP

DRIP

HEY. HOW MANY TIMES DO YOU THINK

WE'RE GONNA KISS FROM NOW ON?

I don't know our way out.
I'm sorry.
SFX: CRASH
THE ENTRANCE IS COMPLETELY BLOCKED.
IT'S NO USE... WE HAVE TO STOP SEARCHING. THE WEATHER'S TERRIBLE!
IF THERE'S ANOTHER LANDSLIDE, WE'RE ALL GONNA BE IN TROUBLE!
I FOUND HIM!
TARO SAID HE'D HIDE OUT IN THIS CAVE.
BUT... TARO'S...!
TARO...!
IT'S TARO!

AGHHHHHHHH
YOU STILL HAVE A FEVER. DON'T FORCE YOURSELF TO GET UP.
This place...
AND YOU CALL YOURSELF AN ADULT WOMAN
..WHAT AN UNLADYLIKE VOICE.

THAT'S WHY I TOLD YOU YOU'D CATCH A COLD OUT THERE IN THE RAIN.
Oh...
I ... BURIED THE CAT.
I REALLY DID...
ITS NAME WAS KURO, A REALLY OLD BLACK CAT.
MY MOTHER USED TO TAKE CARE OF IT...
IT WAS THE ONLY ONE THAT REMEMBERED WHO I WAS,
BUT ... IT DIED.
SHE HADN'T COME OVER TO EAT IN A MONTH, SO I'D THOUGHT THAT MAYBE SHE'D DIED ..
I'm sorry... Kuro ...you.
BLUSH
...THANK YOU.
SHE LIKED YOUR MOTHER MORE THAN SHE LIKED ME..
YOU SEE, FRANCINE USED TO BE MY CAT.
I SEE, SO FRANCINE IS DEAD.

104 ... really?
JUST STAY IN BED!
YOUR TEMPERATURE'S 104 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT, YOU KNOW!
REALLY, YOU AND YOUR MOTHER BOTH ALWAYS MADE ME WORRY.
ばふっ
SFX: SMACK
But she was at our place all the time!
splat
HUH?!
SFX: JUMP

WELL..
SHE WAS LIKE A KID, BUT...
...I WASN'T ENVIOUS.
FRANCINE PROBABLY LIKED HER BETTER BECAUSE OF THAT. .
SHE WAS JUST LIKE A KID.
YOUR MOTHER WAS RELUCTANT TO SETTLE DOWN, TOO...

HOW STUPID.
SEASONS ARE MEANT TO CHANGE ..
THAT'S THE ONLY WAY WE CAN TELL THAT WE'RE ALIVE ..
..SHE WANTED HER WHOLE LIFE TO BE 'N THE SUMMER.

SFX. THUD
MADAM! MADAM!
SFX SLAM
I'm sorry...
WELL, THERE WERE SEVEN OR EIGHT OF THEM, BUT WE MANAGED TO CATCH THEM ALL.
THEY HAD KNIVES AND EVERYTHIN', SO WE HAD TO BEAT 'EM UP!
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE STRANGERS?
DON'T MAKE SUCH A RACKET, MITSUKO.
IT LOOKED LIKE THAT BASTARD ODAGIRI WAS THE LEADER OF THE BUNCH. HE GOT AWAY ... AND THE POLICE ARE LOOKIN' FOR HIM RIGHT NOW.
AND ... HERE'S THE BAD NEWS! OLD GRAMPS HAMADA SNEEZED RIGHT WHEN WE WERE ABOUT TO CATCH THE LAST GUY..
HUMPH.
YOU'RE NOT REALLY DOING THIS BECAUSE YOU WANTED TO HELP ME, RIGHT?
REALLY, WHO KNOWS WHAT WOULD'VE HAPPENED IF THE LITTLE LADY DIDN'T TELL US ABOUT THOSE GUYS. .
OH, LORD!
MADAM
THE STORY WITH THIS GUY IS THAT HE WAS ARRESTED BACK WHEN MADAM'S HUSBAND WAS THE PROSECUTOR ...
HE WAS PLANNING TO ROB AND HURT MADAM AND THE PEOPLE IN THIS HOUSE BECAUSE OF A COMPLETELY IRRATIONAL FEELING OF HATRED...
THIS GIRL'S MOTHER WAS THE SAME AS YOU TWO, ALWAYS FUSSING AROUND AND JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS...
WELL, ANYWAY, I'M RELIEVED THAT THOSE MEN WEREN'T REALLY AFTER THE CHILDREN...
... TARO. .

TARO'S SAFE, RIGHT...?
S-SO..
TARO ..
NO. TARO'S...
..
Actually..
..BEEN MISSING SINCE YESTERDAY NIGHT...
EVEN NOW..
WE'VE HEARD STORIES THAT HE WAS HEADED TOWARD THE MOUNTAIN WITH HANA.
THAT AREA'S ALL MESSED UP BECAUSE OF THE LANDSLIDES.
BESIDES, THERE'S NO REAL PROOF THAT HE WENT OVER THERE. HE MIGHT JUST BE FOOLING AROUND SOMEWHERE ELSE...
SFX: SLAM
SFX: DASH
W-WAIT!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!

HEY!! WAIT!!
Taro
...
SHE CAN'T GO OUT THERE, NOT IN HER CONDITION ...!
Taro...
!!
Yatsuhaka?!
WHERE'S YATSUHAKA VILLAGE?

SFX: RUMBLE
HE WANTED TO HIDE OUT IN THE CAVES IN YATSUHAKA VILLAGE!
TARO ... HE WAS TALKING ABOUT IT!
SPLAT
Yeah.
YATSUGAMA MOUNTAIN.
You mean...

RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
Damn it...
Damn... I can't do anything for my friends...
IF TARO REALLY DID GO TO THE CAVES, THEN WE'RE IN TROUBLE
THE ENTRANCES ARE ALL BLOCKED BY MUD
HEY! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
DAMN, SHE HAS A REALLY HIGH FEVER!
Not only did I break our promise, I also couldn't protect you, either.
Oh ... I'm so sorry, Taro...
Ha ha...

"After that, we couldn't figure out where Taro or Odagiri went."
DRIP
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE

I wonder how many days've gone by.
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
Or maybe it's only been a few hours?
After our flashlight batteries died, it's been so dark that we've lost our sense of time...
TARO
..
IT'S ALL RIGHT. THERE MUST BE A SEARCH PARTY LOOKING FOR US!
TARO
WHAT IS IT, HANA?
TARO
..
I wonder what day of the week it is today...
IT'S ALL RIGHT!
WHAT IS IT? DO YOU WANT WATER? SOME CHOCOLATE?
TARO
..
I'M SORRY
Monday ... or maybe Friday...?
A week might have passed by, I wouldn't know...
TARO.

..WITH JUST..
..THE TWO OF US..
WAS KIND OF EXCITING
AD-VEN-TUR-ING...
SO I WAS..
HAPPY..
I..DIDN'T REALLY GET A CHANCE TO PLAY WITH YOU THIS SUMMER.
...I'M SORRY... I SHOULD'VE STOPPED YOU...

I'M SORRY..
TARO.
SORRY
THEY WERE...
.FUN MEMO-RIES..

..KISS ME, TARO..
I...!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! IF ... IF I WAS STRONGER ... I SHOULD'VE BEEN STRONG ENOUGH TO PROTECT YOU...!

..DO IT.
OUR LAST KISS.

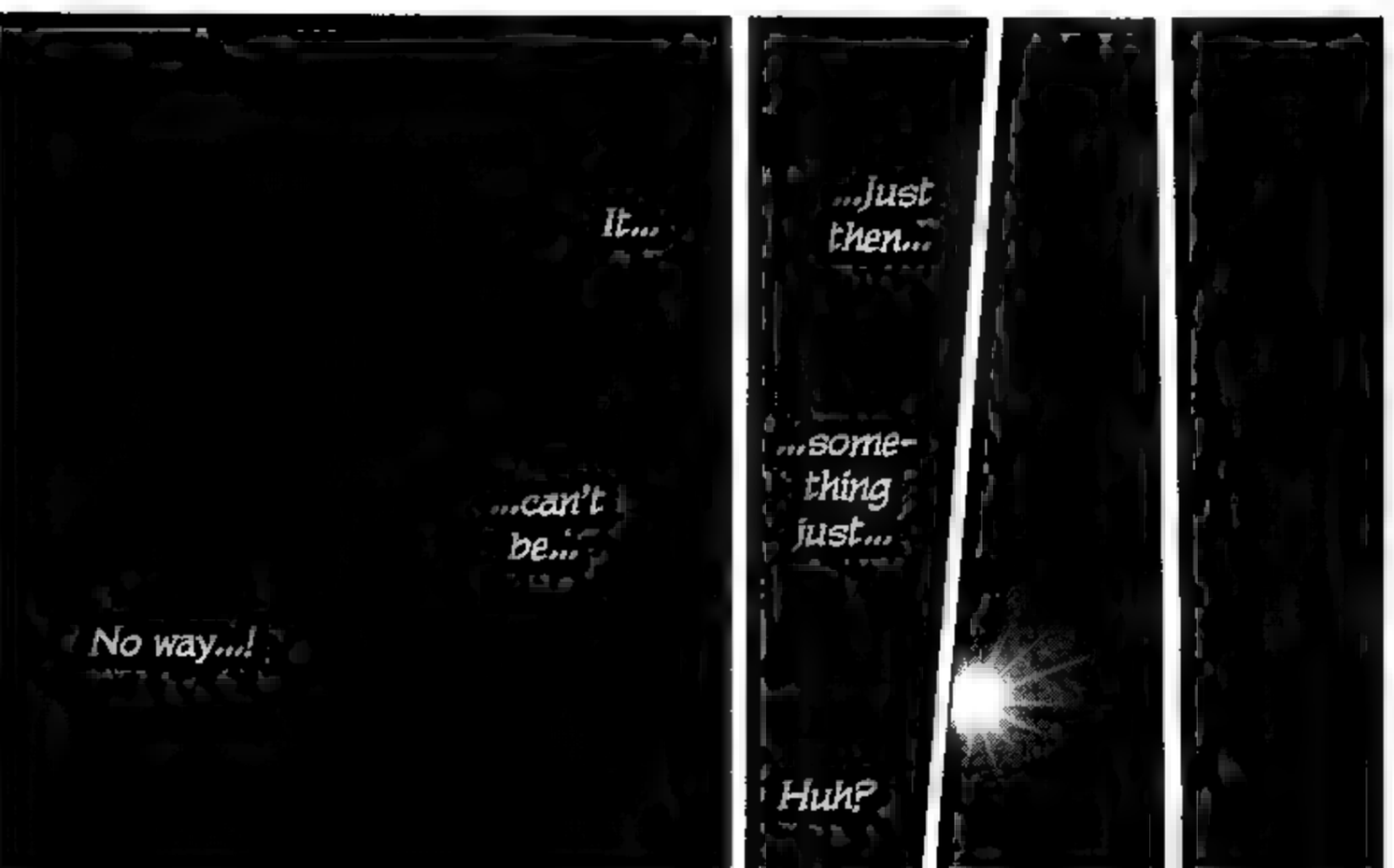
STUPID!
IT'S TOO SAD.
THAT
NOT LIKE
YOU SAID THAT WE'D KISS A LOT MORE TIMES!

THAT ..
THAT'S TOO ..
EM-BAR-RAS-ING..
WHEN SCHOOL STARTS, LET'S KISS IN FRONT OF EVERYONE.
rustle
rustle
...? There's something in my pocket...
CLICK
It's Haru's lighter...
I've gone to look for the exit countless times, but this is it...
This is ... our last piece of food...
O-OH, YEAH! I SAVED AN ANGE_ PIE FOR YOU. I KNOW IT'S YOUR FAVORITE.
rustle
...from when we went to the island.

"The pirates'll rise from their graves to laugh at you!"
"Turning on your mates just cause there's a bounty."

This is...
One last time...
AND SO YOU WON'T BE LONELY, OK?
HERE, I'LL TIE THIS FISHING LINE TO OUR PINKIES, SO I WON'T GET LOST,
One more time.
HANA.
I-I'M GONNA GO LOOK FOR A WAY OUT

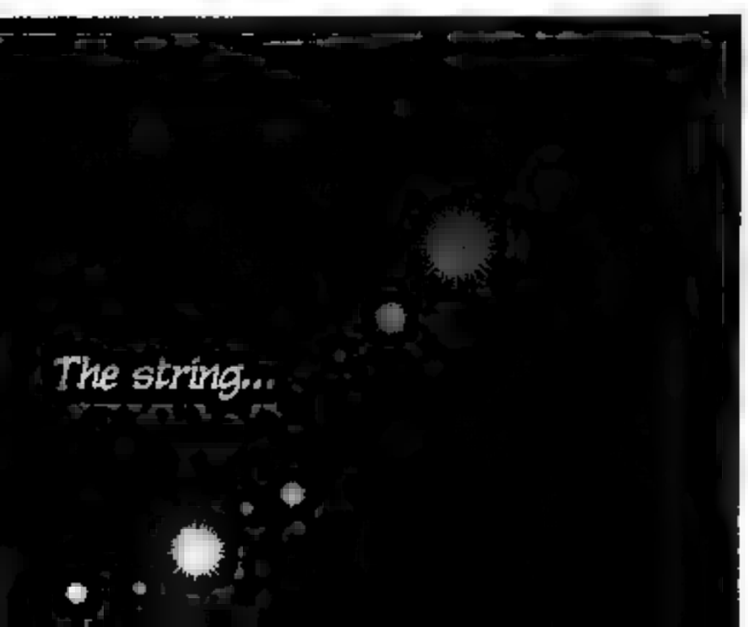
...my last try!

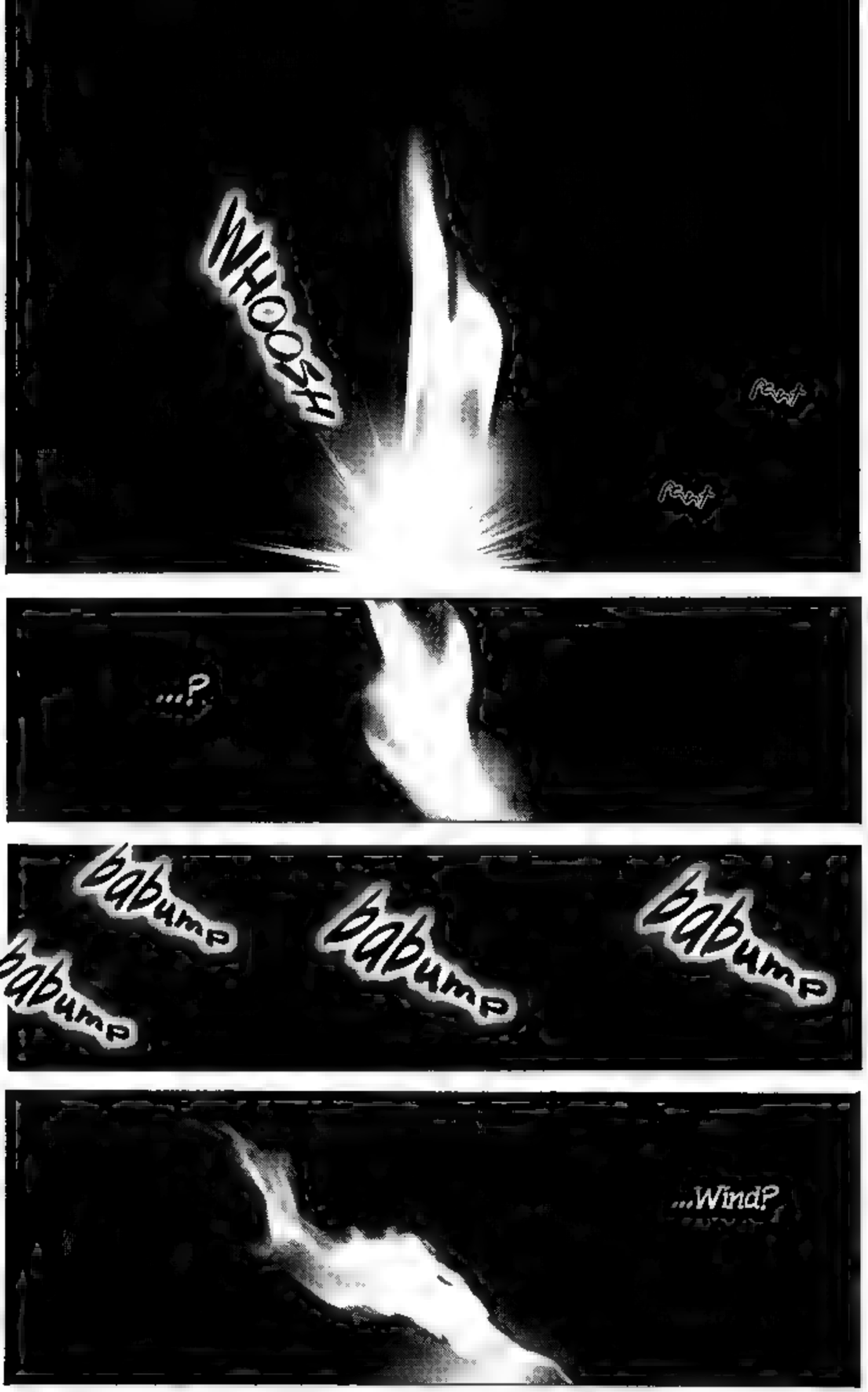

It...
...can't be...
No way...!
...just then...
...something just...
Huh?

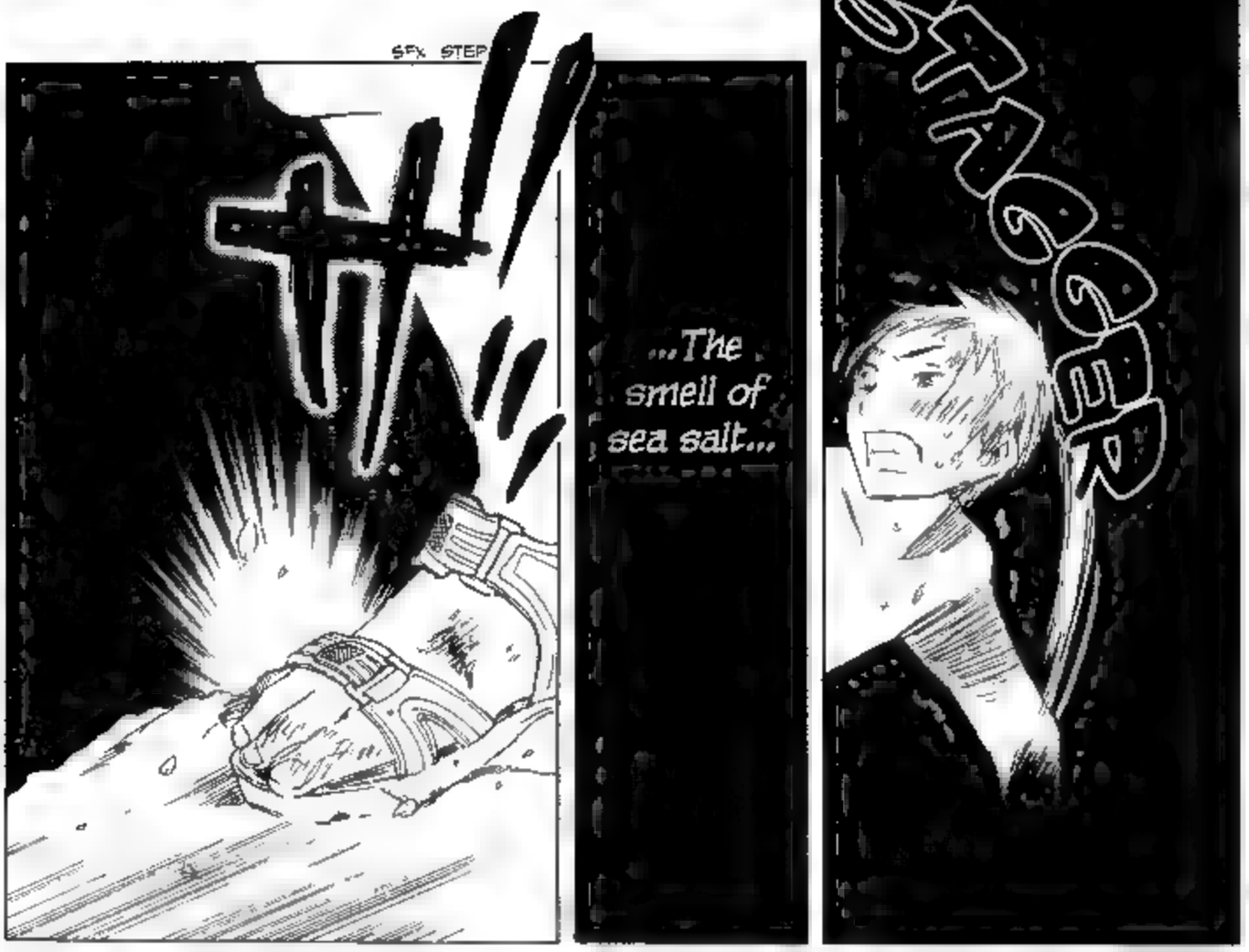
It's Odagiri!

pant
...It was definitely "him."
pant
Did he come after me? But how...?
pant
By my voice re-verberating off the walls...?
He didn't recognize me by my voice?
pant
SFX: CRASH CRUMBLE
But ... why would he be here...?
...Aw... shit...

Damn... I fell into a hole.




WHOOSH
...?
babump
babump
babump
babump
...Wind?



Hana...

Just you wait...

Joe...

Nikuya.

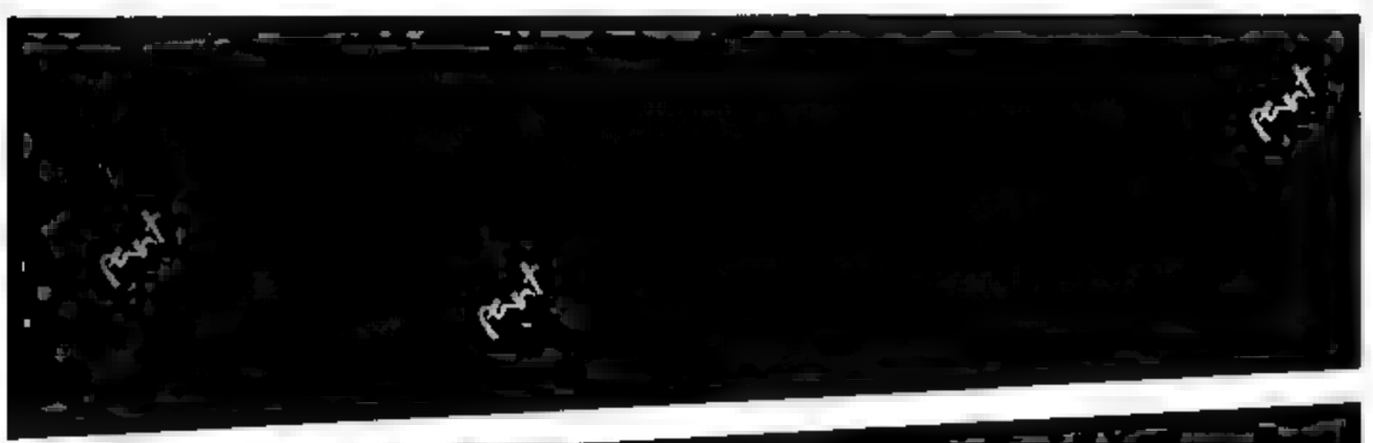
Four-eyes.

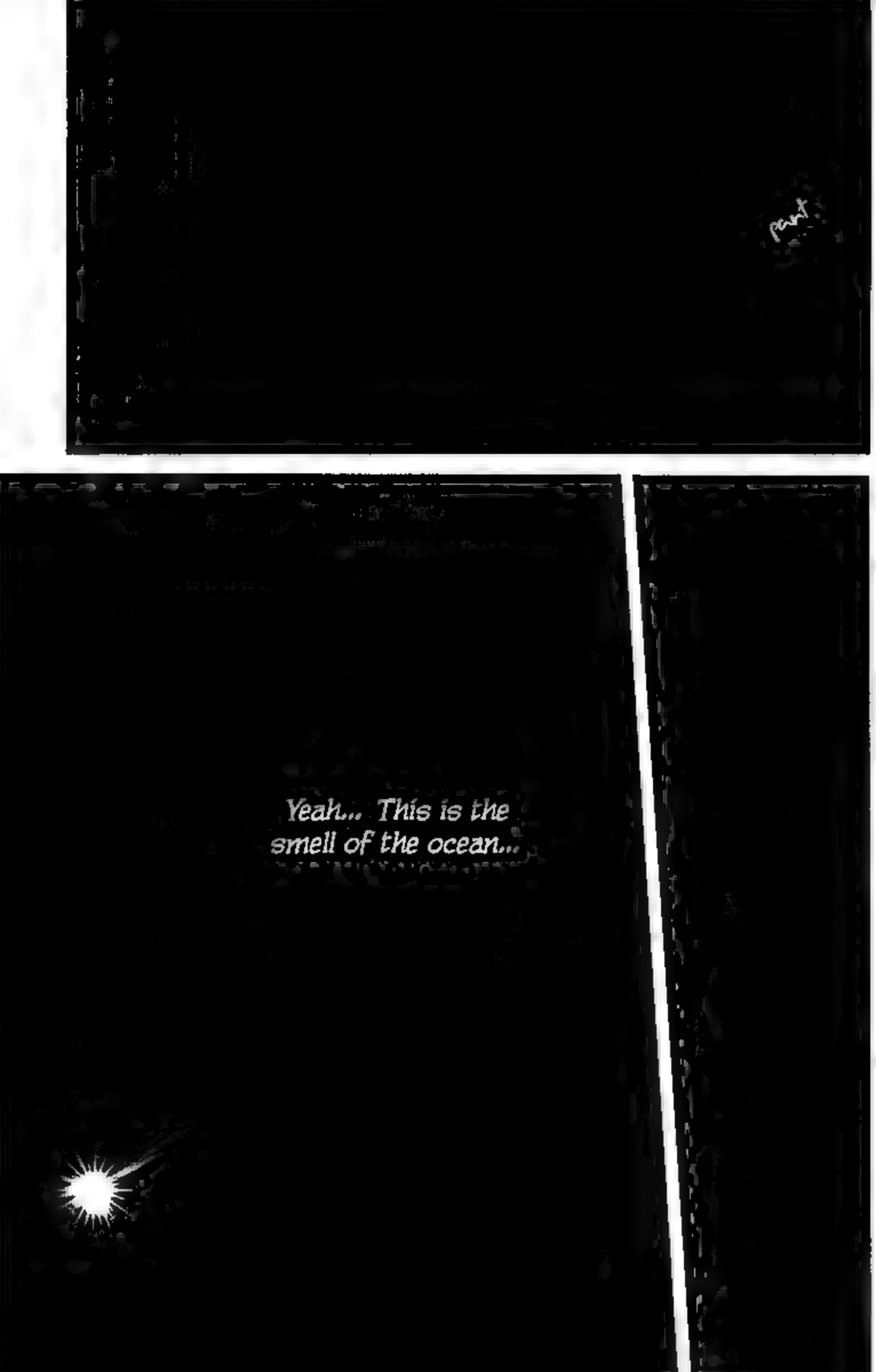
Everyone...

Mari.

I'll add you in, too, Sis.

Auntie.

...Haru...!



Yeah... This is the
smell of the ocean...

I heard that four days after I collapsed, Taro and Hana were found.
Taro asked a neighboring fishing boat for help,
and when they got back to the village, Taro dragged his weak body along...

...and proudly told the worried townspeople, his aunt, and Hana's family...

And then, he collapsed.

...the story of his adventure. Everyone was impressed...

He didn't wake up for two days.

But there is also a horrible part to this story.

He got yelled at by the school about what he'd done.

After he got better,

Taro finally found out that the entrance to the cave had been sealed off due to the landslides.

The search party found the body of the murderer ... near the entrance of the caves.

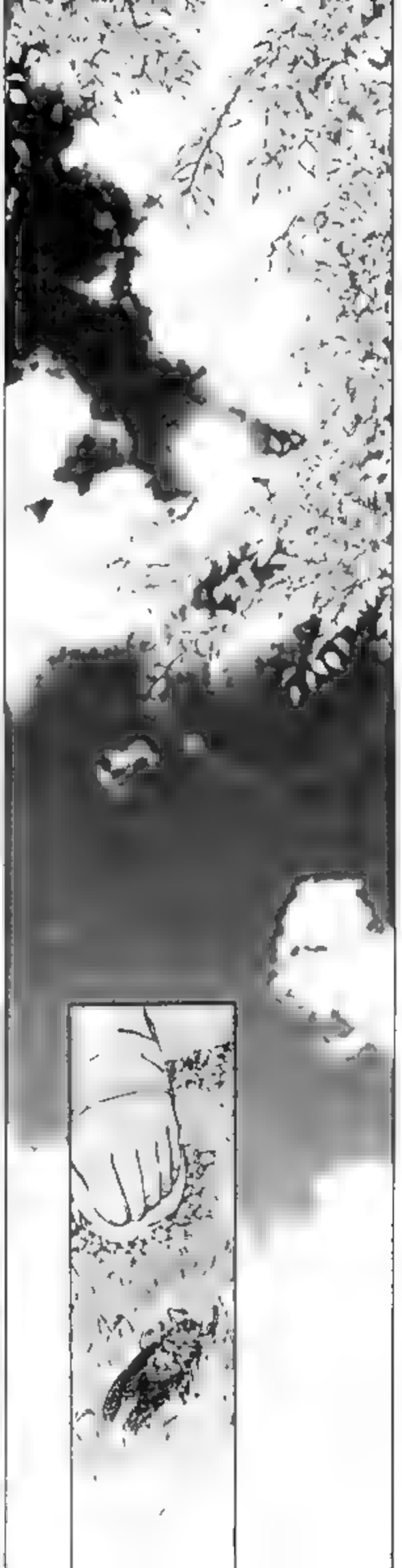
They said that next to his body, they found some discarded candles and bat carcasses...

...that he had eaten to try to stay alive.

...He had starved to death.

He rubbed his face against what used to be the entrance of the cave, dead with his eyes wide open as if he was staring into a light that wasn't really there.

"If you want..."



"If you want, that is..."
"...you can stay here, as long as you like."

WHAT? YOU'RE UP ALREADY?

HEY.
HEY.
HERE.
THANKS.
WELL, I GUESS I STILL DO FEEL KIND OF FAINT. .
THAT'S A SHAME. I BROUGHT SOMETHING TO MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER AND EVERYTHING.
SFX: GAHHHH
A DEAD BAT.
A WITCH'S FAVORITE!
Gee, you're better already
hee hee
ARE YOU TRYING TO KILL ME?!
おおおお

I'M WILLING TO DIE FOR IT.

I DON'T CARE
IF I DIE.
HEY.
I FOUND IT!
TREASURE!

HARU! PUT YOUR BACK INTO IT!
splash splash
YOU, TOO, TARO!
HERE WE GO!!
"You found tresure...? Where? In that cave?"
"Yeah! I found the spot where it was hidden!"
"It was carved into the wall. A cross! It must be '810!"
GO!
READY... SET...

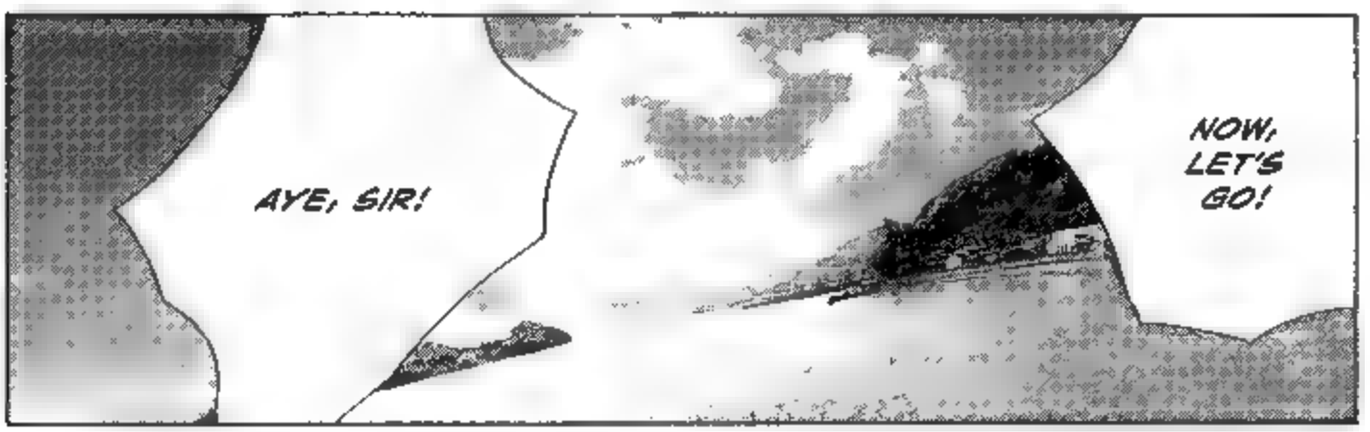
*THE JAPANESE CHARACTER FOR "YATSU" LOOKS LIKE AN 8, AND THE JAPANESE CHARACTER FOR "10" LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE A CHRISTIAN CROSS.

"..."

"Oh!! I get it!! So that's why it's '810!"

"It's so obvious once you know the answer."

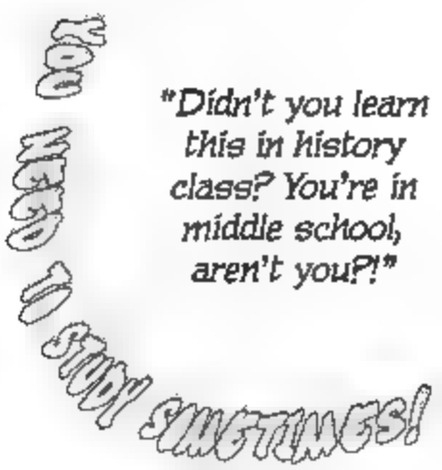
"I see... So it's the 'cross' on 'Yatsu' in Yatsugama Mountain."



"Didn't you learn this in history class? You're in middle school, aren't you?!"

"Huh? Hidden? What?"

"The cross in the cave... I see... So it was a hidden underground Christian spot."



ALL RIGHT!

"straight ahead, is where the treasure is!"

"and then from there,"

"Mind your own business! Anyway! The way I used to get out goes to somewhere you're really familiar with,"

"An underground escape route, huh. So close to their hideout..."

"The bad guys probably had no idea that it was there!"

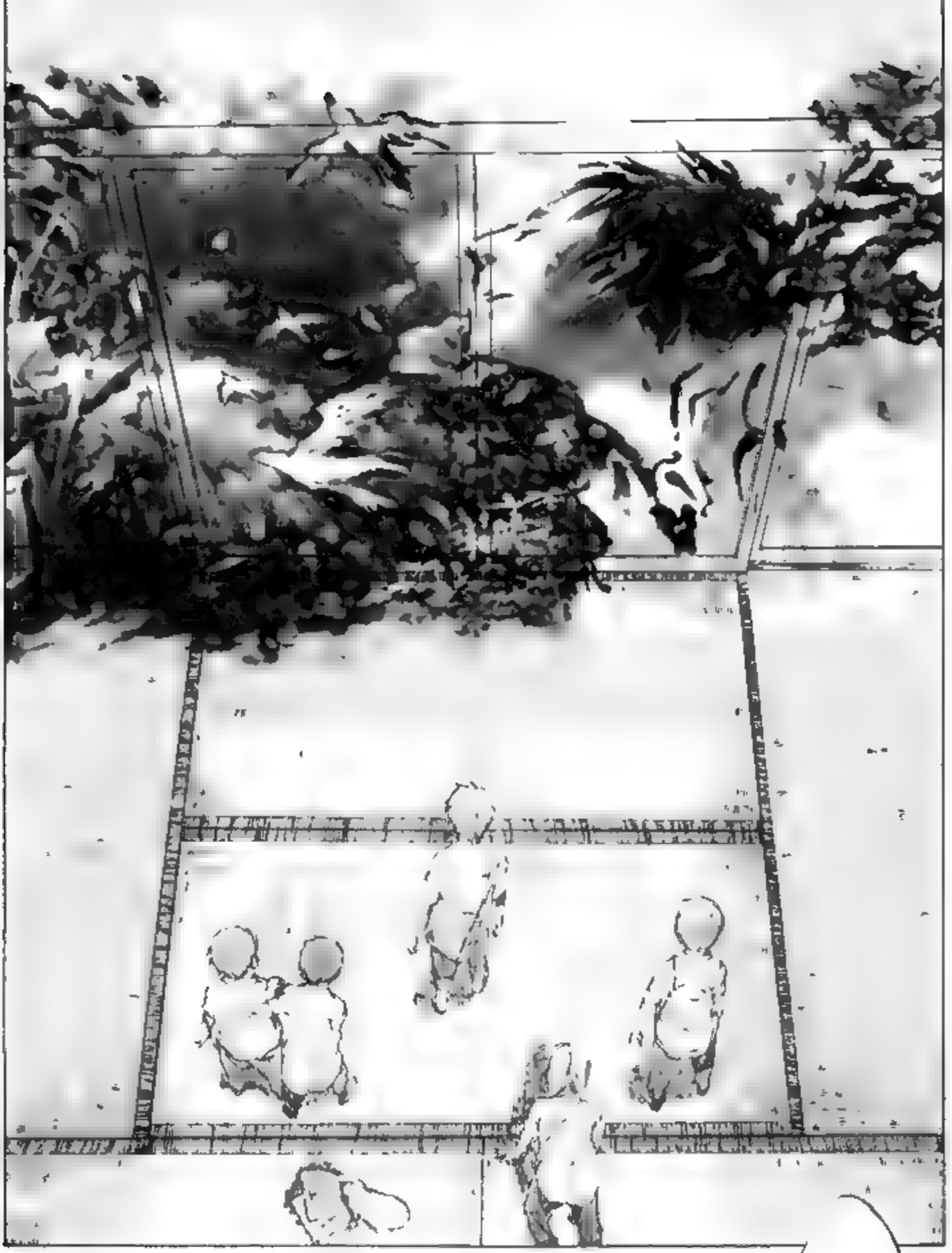
So, what happened to the treasure?
Of course...
...we didn't take it.

ORIGINAL WORK BY MARK TWAIN
FROM THE ADVENTURES OF TOM SAWYER

LET'S GO TO THE FESTIVAL!
IT'S THE TENJIN FESTIVAL!
SFX: HA HA HA HA
EH? WHO ARE YOU? WHAT COUNTRY ARE YOU FROM?
Do we know you?
WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE IT MATTERS TO ME OR ANYTHING!
It's all tanned under my pants, too!
SERIOUSLY, THOUGH, TARO. YOU REALLY GOT TANNED.
OH? YOU THINK SO?
SFX: CLATTER
HARU!!
IT SURE IS GREAT BEING A COLLEGE STUDENT. HER SUMMER VACATION'S STILL NOT OVER YET.
SERIOUSLY! HARU!

HEY, DID YOU FIND NARU IN THERE?!
WHOA!
WHAT'S THAT?!
IS THAT TARO...?
WHOA THAT'S AWESOME

ENTROPY
Coloring by Misaki Sitara

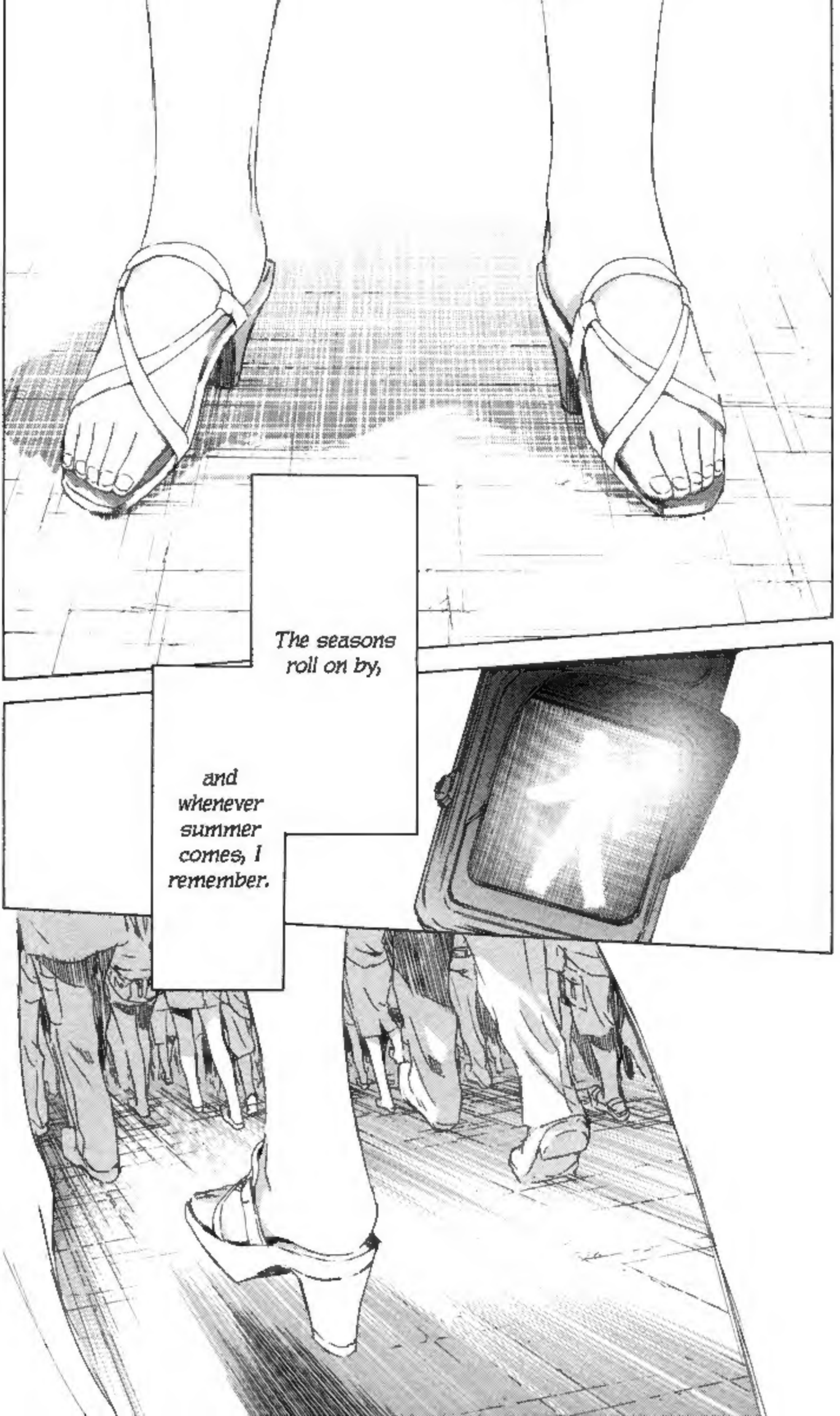


PRESENTED BY

SHIN PRESENTS!

I WANT BAKED SQUID AND CANDY APPLES AND CHOCOLATE-COVERED BANANAS...
THERE'S JUST NO SAVING YOU, NIKUYA.
...No.
LET'S GO! I WANNA PLAY THE GAME WHERE YOU CUT STUFF OUT!
THE TENJIN FESTIVAL IS GONNA START SOON!
Oh, yeah!

Art & Story Adaptation by
Shin Takahashi


The seasons roll on by,
and whenever summer comes, I remember.

Another season goes by...
...but no matter how much time passes, I'll still remember.
STUPID ...
YOU'RE ALL IDIOTS.
That summer ...

THIS PICTURE...
...IS A PICTURE OF HARU.
That summer was my last summer.
Like the ones I used to read about in storybooks and the ones that I knew would come to me one day...
It was the summer of my boyish dreams.
Goodbye.

Tom Sawyer. You're the name of my last summer.